SPORTS / A23

Miami nips Dallas in OT as Wade shines

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Censors reprimand 3 TV channels for 'lewd' footage

ACROSS / A13

Bulusan evacuation starts; permanent danger zone widened

BUSINESS / B1

RP bags 'best borrower' award from Euromoney

Group wants Charter change to junk House

By Norman Bordadora

TURNING THE TABLES ON those seeking to abolish the Senate through Charter change, a group calling itself Tugon ng Bayan is pushing for a unicameral legislature that would dissolve

(2ND SP, A4)

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, June 28, 2006 ★★ Vol. 21 / No. 192 www.inq7.net

Launching of private impeachment bid reset

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

OPPOSITION SENATORS SEE SHORTER prospects with the new impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo being prepared by apolitical but credible civic and religious leaders.

However, this early a crack has begun to emerge in the civilian effort to unseat Ms Arroyo.

(4A/NEWS/ 4A)

3 Army battalions join anti-NPA drive

Elite Navy commando unit thrown into battle

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr. and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan

WHILE MALACAÑANG and its advisers are debating timetables, the military is wasting no time trying to get the job done.

Three Army battalions from war-scarred Mindanao yesterday arrived at Camp Nakar in Lucena City for deployment to areas in Luzon where they will battle, not Islamic rebels, but guerrillas of the communist New People's Army.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Southern Luzon Command chief, sounded the battle trumpet when he welcomed the Mindanao warriors to his camp.

"Let us show how we are all eager to crush the enemy in two years as ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo. And we will do it," Cabuay told the soldiers.

"This insurgency war has been too long. So many lives have been lost and injured. It affects our economy. We have to end all this for the sake of the country and our people."

At Sangley Point in nearby Cavite, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga vowed to accomplish the mission when he attended the graduation ceremonies for 23 members of the Navy SEALS, an elite sea-air-land unit whose specialty is counterinsurgency warfare.

The unit, trained in planting explosives and staging commando raids, is also to be thrown into the battle with the NPA.

"The President has given us a mission. We will try to accomplish that during the time frame," Senga told reporters.

(4ARMY/ A6)

BATTLE READY. A member of the Philippine Navy SEALS fires an M-60 machinegun during a counterinsurgency training exercise held at Sangley Point in Cavite City.

(DAN ALCARAZ)

Left groups in orders of battle, say papers

By Norman Bordadora

INTELLIGENCE UNITS OF THE Armed Forces have been monitoring and even preparing orders of battle on several groups alleged to be fronts of the communist underground, according to documents submitted by a militant group to the Commission on Human Rights.

The documents, which the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas claimed came from a source inside Camp Aguinaldo, generally showed a shift in intelligence gathering techniques anchored on "knowing the enemy."

The KMP's disclosure of the documents followed President Macapagal-Arroyo's call on the military and the national police to defeat the insurgency at least within her term, which ends in 2010.

The disclosure also came in the wake of an upsurge in the killing of leftwing militants by unidentified men reform leftwing groups said belonged to paramilitary groups.

One document was a letter supposedly signed by then AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Tirso Danga ordering the institution of "target research" on several groups and the roles they play in "actively advancing the revolutionary struggle of the Left."

The groups included those in the ranks of labor and the peas-

(LEFT/ A9)

Negotiated PNP deals defended

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police may know yesterday defended the decision to dispense with a public bidding in the acquisition of some P222 million worth of patrol cars, handguns and motorcycles, saying it was advantageous to the government.

The police even saved roughly P56 million from those purchases, Jag PNP officials said.

Also coming to the PNP's defense, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said that among the reasons officials opted for a "negotiated procurement" or "direct contracting" was standardization.

Puno said a public bidding might not help in the standard-

(NEGOTIATED/ A4)

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao inspect newly acquired Brazilian-made guns for policemen.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

An era of declining support for uprooted

By Fernando del Mundo

WHEN BENIGNO AQUINO RE-turned in 1980 an agreement with the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, declaring that "a pact with the devil is no pact at all," he became a refugee in the United States.

SPECIAL REPORT

The foremost political prisoner of the martial law regime, Aquino had been allowed to undergo heart surgery in Boston. He had promised to return soon after that, but decided to remain there.

Three years later, Aquino was assassinated on his return to Manila to mobilize the fractured political opposition. His killing galvanized a protest movement that led to the ouster of Marcos and the recovery of democracy that had been lost upon the declaration of martial law in 1972.

Few in the Philippines were aware of Aquino's status as a refugee, alongside that of his wife Corazon, who was later installed as President following the departure of the dictator. There's little awareness of asylum instruments in the country.

The list of refugees—defined in the 1951 Geneva convention as people who had crossed international boundaries to flee a "well-founded fear of persecution"—is long.

They include Jesus, whose family escaped the wrath of King Herod in Israel, and the prophet

(4N ENR, A6)

'Nicole' forced out of bar, witness told

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

A FEW HOURS AFTER IT HAPPENED, Nicole told an investigator that American servicemen had forced her out of a nightclub and allegedly raped her in a moving van.

Ramon Deja, the 12th witness for the prosecution, testified that Nicole, when interviewed after receiving medical assistance six hours after her alleged rape, claimed that the accused US Marines took her out of a popular nightspot "against her will" before carrying out the crime in a Subic van.

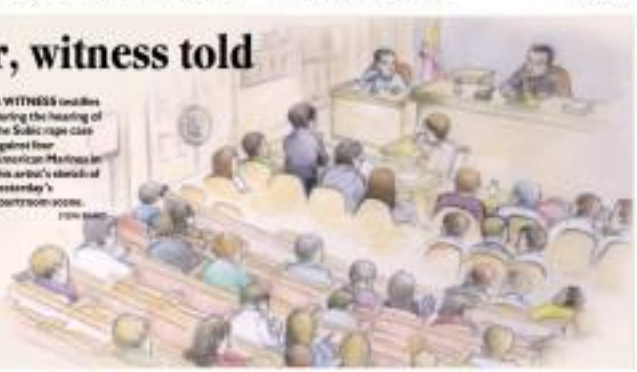
Pape said the 23-year-old Filipina complainant in the Subic rape case remembered being "kissed and her private parts touched (fingered). Her pants and underwear being "pulled down," before being "sexually abused (penetrated)."

That Nicole herself claimed that she was forcibly brought out of Neptune Bar inside the Subic Freeport was one version of the incident never before presented in the trial at the Makati Regional Trial Court's Branch 139.

A previous witness, Neptune security guard Gerald Mayor, recalled seeing an apparently "unconscious" Nicole being carried piggyback by accused Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith from the bar entrance to the van. Mayor then said he also heard Smith telling him, "She's with me. We're gonna go now."

Pape, a member of the Subic Bay

(NICOLE/ A4)



A WITNESS testifies during the hearing of the Subic rape case against four American Marines in this artist's sketch of yesterday's courtroom scene.

(TOM BANG)

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Palace links Gringo to blasts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Lutgo A. del Puerto

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY LINKED THE GROUP OF ex-Sen. and ex-coup plotter Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan to the spate of bombings that have rocked Metro Manila recently.

At a press briefing at the Presidential Security Group office in Malacañang, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the police were looking into the possible involvement of Honasan and his aides in the bombings.

Puno said that while police investigators of the bombings had yet to be completed, all evidence collected pointed to the group of Honasan.

"They (the bombers) have claimed to be the group of 'Edris' but this group has the same footprints as previous groups identified with the same group of people (Honasan and his aides), but the newest name to perpetrate terrorism downtown," Puno said.

Puno made the disclosure after President Macapagal-Arroyo let the cat out of the bag in the announcement she issued on Saturday of her order of Honasan, retired Colonels Virgilio Briones and Romeo Lara.

"Yes, if there's related to the bombings?" the President asked Puno during the briefing.

Three explosions that caused no injuries rocked the metro since early June. The first blast occurred June 6 at the Gerpalio building in Makati City, another at Malhacan in Quezon City on June 11 and the third at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City on June 13.

Police have ruled these out as terrorist bombings—which they said usually targeted crowded places and used powerful explosives to inflict maximum damage—said incidents they were meant to "disorder and embarrass" the police and the Arroyo administration.

Puno said the President that the police had stepped up the hunt for Honasan and three of his aides still at large—retired Col. Felix Turingan, Jocoje Bathalan and Lito Bersoy.

Honasan and his aides are facing rebellion charges for their alleged participation in the failed Hyatt-coup last year.

"With the arrest of the two retired colonels last week, we are hopeful that our operations will have positive results," Puno said.

"We would like to reduce the division of advocates hanging between the authorized services and these elements. We have assured the public that the police are in full control of the situation, that they (Honasan and his aides) cannot hide forever," Puno said.

Puno also renewed his appeal to Honasan and his aides to "surrender peacefully because we believe that going through the judicial process is the best way to resolve their differences with the government in terms of how to address public problems."

Puno amplified on his threat at Camp Crame shortly after presenting to the media the two alleged coup plotters Briones and Lara who were arrested over the weekend.

He described the bombings in Metro Manila as "terror incidents" in a normal society.

"From the national security perspective, there is no more danger of any overthrow or coup or anything of that sort," Puno declared. "If you are talking about threats, there is none anymore."

He said efforts to undermine the administration would continue but maintained that his group at this time had the capability to "neutralize whatever threat" to the government.

"It is only a matter of time (before) we will be able to bring in everyone that has (an) outstanding warrant," Puno said, referring to Honasan and his aides.

MITRED Colonels Virgilio Briones and Romeo Lara await their presentation to the media yesterday at Camp Crame after they were arrested for Saturday in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. They will also be investigated for possible links to recent bombings and suspected coup plotter Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan. CAMPCRAME

NPA believed behind Ecija slay

AMLONE CITY—AT 9 TO HELP THE government's all-out war against the communists, suspected New People's Army guerrillas shot and killed on Sunday a Nueva Ecija village chief who was described as very active in the peace campaign of the government.

The victim, Lorenzo Bautista, was found four successive shots at Bagong Buhay, 50, in front of his wife in Bagong Sta. Rita in Lupao, Nueva Ecija, some 20 km west of here.

Rita died while undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Senior Supt. Cecilio Taruc, chief of Intelligence Maj. Gen. Isidro Pulgarino, commander of the army's 7th Infantry Division, who said on Saturday that he was expanding the military operations against communist rebels in Central Luzon following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration to crush the 37-year-old communist insurgency in two years.

Supt. Bruce Goldberg, chief of the PNP's police multiple group here, said Bautista was wanting to help the village in front of his house when the three men attacked him.

Police said pleaded with the gunmen to spare the life of her husband but they ignored her, Goldberg said.

Goldberg said Estes was described by Bautista's family members as a "professional government official and very supportive of the drive to maintain peace and order in the village."

Estes was reported to have facilitated the "surrendering" by the Army of 22 people suspected to be sympathetic to the NPA.

Policemen earlier deployed for troops in Lupao to aid the town of communist rebels.

Goldberg said Estes and two village council members had been receiving death threats for their campaign to rid their town of suspected rebels.

"The likelihood that Estes was gunned down by suspected CPP/NPA rebels is very strong," Goldberg said, adding that the police are looking into other angles for the killing. Jonathan Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with Bernie Cudiam, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

GMA releases P1B, this time vs graft

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER CRITICISM HAS SUBSIDED, PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo is shelling out more than P1 billion to fight corrupt government officials and cleanse the graft-ridden bureaucracy in two years.

"I have instructed the allocation of a supplemental P1 billion for an all-out war against graft and corruption with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission at the helm of executive efforts. I'm cooperational with the constitutionally independent Ombudsman," said the President in a speech during a command conference on the Millennium Development Goals Account in Malacañang.

The President said the allocation was the final consideration for the $20-billion grant that Washington gave the country recently under the Millennium Challenge Account, an initiative of President George W. Bush to reward developing countries for their good governance and to encourage them to do better.

The new roughly P2 billion anticorruption war chest, however, is just a sliver of the over P1.06 billion that is collected by government from every year due to corruption, according to the United Nations.

"Growing the economy, fighting poverty, getting rid of graft and corruption—all these goals will reward on parallel and related paths to we consolidate the nation," said the President just a few days after announcing her allocation of P1 billion for an all-out war to eradicate communist insurgency.

The President said the anticorruption fund would be used to step up the drive against car thieves and smugglers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, kingpin-impact anti-illegal drug operations by the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and breakdown of other revenue-leaks in land transit taxes by getting through the Presidential Council on Values Formation to leaders with the religious sector, Department of Education, Commission for Higher Education and allied nongovernmental organizations.

The President said the fund would boost the Ombudsman's budget to hire more investigators and prosecutors.

"Part of the P1 funding will be used to attract more local investigators by providing them with just compensation under an engagement contract with well-defined performance indicators," the President said.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the BIR's was included in the anticorruption drive "in the belief that the drug trade flourishes because of grease money by participation."

The President said another key objective of the anticorruption drive was to increase the collection of two of the most graft-ridden agencies in the country—the BIR and BOC.

"The project will develop an effective mechanism for gathering and validating tax collection data and invest in information technology surveillance tools and a customs tracking system so investigations are more thorough," said the President.

Chinese fishing boat yields 100 dead turtles

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD FOUND 100 dead sea turtles in a Chinese fishing vessel stopped by operatives off Palawan on Saturday for allegedly poaching in Philippine waters.

The PCG arrested the ship's eight crew members, whose names were not made immediately available.

The country's fisheries code specifies that sea turtles, which are considered endangered species, should not be caught or traded.

The Philippines is also a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement between governments which prohibits the international trade in sea turtles.

According to the PCG report, the wooden-hulled Chinese vessel was caught 33 nautical miles southwest of Marquez Island in Palawan on Saturday afternoon. It was spotted by a PCG-manned monitoring station and our-rubber vessel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which routinely checks for illegal fishing and poaching.

Authorities arrested the crews and found incriminating facts at the Chinese vessel which, instead of stopping, tried to escape and sail toward Malaysia. After a brief chase, Coast Guard operatives, led by Capt. George Ursabia caught up with the vessel, the PCG report said.

Aside from 100 dead sea turtles, the PCG also found turtles' shells on the ship.

PCG spokesperson Jr. Commander Joseph Cayme said that based on initial investigation, the fishing vessel had come from Hainan, China, as shown by documents found onboard.

Cayme also said the fishing vessel, its crew and the confiscated dead sea turtles were expected to be brought to Puerto Princesa, Palawan, where they would be investigated for violating the country's fisheries laws.

According to the PCG, there are two known marine turtle nesting sites in the country—Turtle Islands in Tawi-Tawi, Mindanao, and Siquijor Islands in Tawi-Tawi. However, the turtles in the areas are believed to be threatened by poachers who raid nests who Philippine fishermen.

Gov't open to talks with Luisita owners on land distribution

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT IS OPEN TO exploratory talks with Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), which manages the 4,915-ha sugar estate whose distribution to its tenants was halted by a temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court last week.

Ali Official of the Department of Agrarian Reform said the government would welcome any options to be presented by the landowner as long as this was in accordance with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

"If they negotiate with us according to the agrarian reform law, we're willing to do exploratory talks on the possibility of them giving up the land, but not exporting it (from CARP coverage)," said Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Rainier Ilano yesterday.

Ilano, however, said the DAR would not initiate any barkadahan negotiations with HLI or any members of the Cojuangco family, owners of Hacienda Luisita, because this might put political color in the effort. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile is a member of the Cojuangco family.

"We don't want it to look like the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) is talking with them. We don't want to be accused of putting political color to this," said Ilano.

The influential Aquino withdrew his support from President Arroyo in July last year and called on her to step down amid allegations she had cheated in the 2004 elections.

Three months later, the DAR recommended the revocation of the stock distribution option (SDO) at Luisita, acting on a complaint filed by Luisita farm workers in October 2005. The DAR recommended the decision had nothing to do with the political situation in the country.

The government had planned to distribute the certificates of land ownership award covering the first 1,000 hectares of Luisita to its farm workers this month in celebration of the 18th CARP anniversary, but the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the SDO cancellation and land distribution.

Ilano said it was unlikely there would be a distribution of CLOAs this month because of the TRO.

"They did not win; it's just a TRO. Anyway we are there with the documentation. The claimfolder has been submitted to (ex)-Chair," he said.

Workers set to take new labor chief's measure

ARTURO BRION HAS YET TO take his seat as the new labor secretary and already the militant labor group Bayanang Manu-Una is telling him how to do his work.

BMU spokesperson Dennis Sapon said Brion should "show his political will to implement reforms necessary if it has job to introduce himself to the workers and make his plans for the department known to them."

"Before first order of the day is to meet with workers and labor leaders and to know the sector's situation, grievances and demands in the department."

Sapon said that Brion should meet with labormen before he marches them with employers and business groups. "After all, he will be handling the Department of Labor and Employment for the next four years, and the Dole is supposed to protect the interests and advance the conditions of the Filipino workforce."

Sapon said the group wanted to discuss with Brion the issue of job security, wage increases, and the issue of contractualization.

"We will present to him the agenda and demands of the labor sector including our urgent demand for contract relief, among other issues, and the massive violations of labor standards, labor contractualization, occupational health and safety issues, repression if trade unions, criminalization of labor disputes and the killing of labor leaders and activists," he said.

Julia B. Rabonera

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday named Brion the new secretary of labor replacing Patricia Sto. Tomas who is leaving for the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Brion, who used to be a labor undersecretary, will be finally taking over the post on July 2.

According to Sapon, the BMU wants to hear from Brion what his plans for the workers will be and his position on the P125 across-the-board wage hike bill.

He also said the group wanted to discuss the issue of the influx of repressive anti-labor and anti-people agenda and to stand on issues.

"We will present to him the agenda and demands of the labor sector including our urgent demand for contract relief, among other issues, and the massive violations of labor standards, labor contractualization, occupational health and safety issues, repression if trade unions, criminalization of labor disputes and the killing of labor leaders and activists," he said.

Julia B. Rabonera

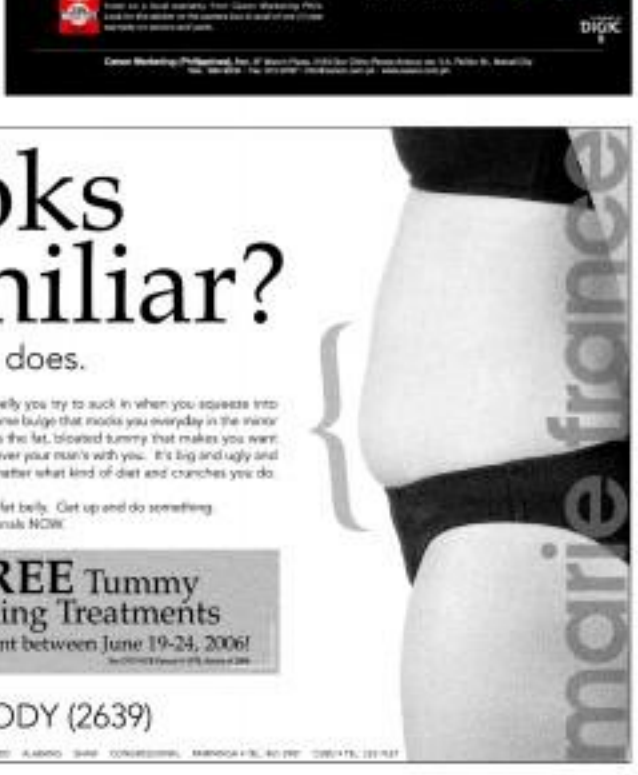
2nd US hospital ship here

A SECOND UNITED States Navy ship to a month docked in the southern Philippines Friday, loaded with humanitarian supplies and schoolbooks on a mission to improve the image of America and neutralize the support for Muslim militants, officials said Monday.

The high-speed vessel, Joint Venture, a leased commercial super ferry, dropped its Manila ex-Mindanao before continuing to Jolo and other parts of Mindanao with hospital beds, medical supplies and school books, the US Embassy said in a statement.

The Mindanao-based mercy mission will spend several months in the Philippines. It arrived after the Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy completed its month-long deployment to the western Philippines, where it provided free medical treatment to local residents.

"This mission to Manila, the two months that I will spend in the country, will be the most rewarding experience of my career," Capt. Thomas Engel, commander of the Comfort, said in a statement. AP



'Nicole' forced out . . .

For page 4

Metropolitan Authority's health, power and Investigation Office, and GIMA members brought Nicole to the IO at around 11:30 a.m. of Nov. 2, but that he only managed to get his formal statement at around 6 a.m.

Testifying in Filipino, Pape said he had very little to talk to her, albeit unreasonably, when she arrived at the IO looking "weary and nothing of liquor (hayaan at amoy-amo)."

Minutes after attending to other matters, Pape approached Nicole a second time, but she still would not speak. He then asked two members to take her to the GMMA health and welfare office for initial treatment and then to the James Gordon Hospital in Barangay 6 City for a medico-legal examination.

Pape said he later learned from one of Nicole's escorts that, before proceeding to the hospital, she asked that they pass by Ninoy Aquino "to look for the Americans who took her out."

'It hurts'

Dr. Bradly got some results out of Nicole when she returned from the hospital.

He asked what happened to her," the witness said. "The answer was that she was brought out [of the bar] against her will and she was loaded into the van, and then she was found, but private parts was bled, her undergarments soiled down, and then she was sexually abused."

Her body and genitals also ached, Pape recalled Nicole as saying.

"That's all that I managed to ask her because she said she was in pain (nasasaktan)," the witness figure and she preferred one who was female," Pape said during his direct examination conducted by Prosecutor Hazel Valdez.

The prosecution panel is expected to produce two more American witnesses — Steven Weatherwaxby, the 30th agent of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service to be called to the stand, and Nicole's seventeenth Christopher Mills.

But was Nicole "heavily intoxicated" or "having no faint (hoon-hoon-hoon)?"

Lawyers of the four US Marines used the two conflicting descriptions found in an initial report of the police investigation to attack the prosecution's claim that the complainant was too drunk to have consented to sex.

Pape had used the phrase "hardly intoxicated" to describe the complainant in his spot report, an incident brief made about the alleged rape.

During the cross-examination of IO chief Augusto Nuñez, Pape's lawyers, defense lawyers asserted the intoxication left unrecorded in his investigator's report.

Nuñez had explained that when Pape wrote "hardly intoxicated" in his spot report, Pape actually meant "drunk" (Lasing) in the Tagalog, obviously the complete opposite of what he intended to say.

"Didn't you correct 'hardly intoxicated' in [Pape's] report? You noted the same report," asked Prosecutor Rodolfo Reyes, counsel for assisted by [Asst] Capacete.

"I actually explained to him ... [that] I cannot dictate on him because he was the officer on [that] case," answered Nuñez.

Drunk or very drunk?

The reason behind the missed correction finally surfaced when Jose Justiniano, lawyer for accused Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, asked how Nuñez understood the phrase "hardly intoxicated."

"Lasing na lasing pa (heavily drunk)," said the investigator, who had been on the job for 14 years.

Nuñez had the same reply to reporters when asked what the English phrase meant in Filipino: "Yun nga, lasing na lasing (That's heavily drunk)."

He added: "I cannot change that. That was what the investigator told me ... the way he interpreted it."

Justiniano, however, doubted Nuñez' interpretation, saying that the term "hardly intoxicated" is used three times and, thus, must have meant it in every sense.

"Why would it seem odd? What we are there is "hardly drunk" in its literal meaning—which is that he [complainant] was just "nakaiwas ing (but had a little drink)" in Filipino, [and] not really heavily drunk," said Justiniano.

For the defense panel, the misinterpretation could make their defense lead Capacete, Silkwood and his fellow Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis and Smith.

The complainant had alleged that Smith raped her while she was dead drunk in the back of the Nissan van, as his comrades Daniel Smith and Silkwood.

According to witnesses, Nicole was later dumped at a parking lot at Subic's Alava Pier, a short walk from where the servicemen's ship, USS Essex, was docked.

"That's a big difference because they [prosecution] said the [complainant] was too drunk to have given consent [to sex]. But if you just had a few drinks, you would still know what is happening around you," Justiniano said.

At the start of the trial, the prosecution presented two security guards of Subic-one Ric who described Nicole as barely conscious as she leaned out of the bar, where she and around 300 allegedly met.

Tristan Campos Jr. and Rhanel, both on duty at the bar on the night of the incident, had testified that Nicole was acquitted and scribbled in the Filipino room, like was later carried piggyback by buddies to the van.

Voluntary or coerced?

Bataan's lawyer Benjamin Bautista Jr. argued that Reyes had taken the sworn statement of Tinsman Soriano Jr., driver of the Nissan van at the time of the incident. Soriano alleged that Nuñez had coerced him into signing a statement saying that he had not, but coerced him into signing a statement saying that he had seen Nicole being raped.

"As an investigator for many years now, do you know the necessity of counsel when undertaking custodial investigation? Do you know of the provisions of the Constitution and of a special Law about custodial investigation? Was there a waiver for Soriano indicating that he was waiving his right to a lawyer? You were or warned him from leaving [your office]?" Pomeroy spat out one question after another.

To was a voluntary statement, ... he was free to leave anytime, after he signed the statements, he just left," Reyes said.

Earlier, under Dodoguis's cross-examination, Reyes said: "I never warned him [Soriano]" as a suspect because he was cooperative."

'I pity him'

As Pomeroy pursued his line of questioning, Judge Benjamin Reyes intervened and asked what the lawyer was driving at.

The lawyer answered that Soriano, that Soriano's [first] statement is inadmissible as evidence," Pomeroy answered.

A visibly irked Reyes said: "You will argue that point with the witness! Let the witness decide on that."

Bautista then objected that Soriano's joint affidavit is also inadmissible as evidence because it was executed without the right to counsel.

The driver also alleged that Nuñez and Pape threatened to shut him in his cramped cell if he refused to sign the statement.

In his cross-examination, Soriano said he was subjected to the duress under threat of being included in the case

We'd do well to recall Sin's legacy, says bishop

By Christian V. Esguerra

FILIPINOS SHOULD REMEMBER JAIME Cardinal Sin for three important gifts the late Manila archbishop had left them—freedom, love and the value of dreams.

On the occasion of Sin's first death anniversary tomorrow, his long-time protégé, Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas yesterday asked the Filipino faithful to show their gratitude to the man who helped topple two autocratic presidents and restore democracy to the country.

At the beginning of a Mass at the Cardinal Sin village in Pasay, Sta. Ana, Manila, Villegas recalled in his homily how Sin had taught the Filipinos to dream and to work at achieving it.

"The cardinal gave us dreams despite the reality that so many Filipinos wanted to go abroad, thinking that hope lay in foreign countries," said Villegas.

"He was the one who gave us hope that the eradication of war diseases could be found in the place where we were born, here in the Philippines," he said.

The village, home to many of the poorest residents of Metro Manila, was a symbol of the cardinal's love for the poor, he said.

'Use whatever you want'

Villegas recalled the time he asked Sin for permission to use his name for the planned community, an initiative of the

CARDINAL SIN
cardinal's friends abroad who wanted to give him a gift.

"Please allow us to use your name because this project will be for the poor," the bishop recalled telling Sin, who replied: "Use whatever it is that you want about me because I want to show them that I care them so much."

Sin also offered Filipinos freedom that arose beyond mere relation from dictatorial rule, Villegas said.

Freedom

"He gave us freedom from everything that was enslaving us during the last years and months of his life—not just freedom from the clings in government but also freedom from poverty, those that enchain the poor and reform that society had to survive."

In the culture that Sin organized, Villegas said the late prelate always

arrived early.

Early arrival

"He would call his rallies and he never abandoned us," he said. "Even before we got to the place, he was (already) there waiting for us."

Villegas also described Sin as someone who truly manifested and spread love.

People he also loved

He said the people the had also loved were represented by the sick, the elderly and the disabled who showed up at his wake at the Manila Cathedral last year.

"I was sad because the world became a lesser place, a less beautiful place with the passing away of the man who loved each of us personally," Villegas said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 20, 2006
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kt 21:17-20
Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy. But this I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? Put your past you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary:

Elijah is sent to deal justly with Ahab over the killing of Naboth (in gruesome circumstances). And Ahab is then declaring that what Ahab has done stands crying out to God and that he will be punished justly for his sin of murder and greed. His line will be cut off as he cut off Naboth's life. He repents (superficially) and this punishment passes to his son's reign. God does justice for the poor. And he does but there is justice and it belongs to God.

And Jesus seeks to teach us that we must love everyone, even our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, and whom we hate. God loves everyone like the just and unjust, and we are to be like God, we like every one else. We are to learn (and this is hard) the compassion we have known from God, and practice it towards all. This is the true prophet's word.

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Protests mark Suu Kyi's 61st birthday

HUNDREDS OF ACTIVISTS WEARING chains and carrying a replica of a giant cake stepped in the Burmese (Myanmar) embassy in Makati City on Monday to demand the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi on her birthday, as she neared 11 years house arrest.

More than a dozen members of the Free Burma Coalition carried placards reading "Free Burma Now" and "Free all political prisoners in Burma."

"We think that calling for Suu Kyi's release would be the best gift we can offer on her birthday," said Una Maine, a coalition spokesperson. It is moment protesting the Burmese government's arrest, detention of Suu Kyi's house arrest another year.

The protesters, two of them with chains around their ankles, were joined by two South American artistes.

The demonstrators hid with them a giant cardboard "cake" bearing a picture of Suu Kyi and the number 61. They also smashed beatings to the inside of the building housing the embassy as a handful of policemen watched.

"The junta's decision extending her house arrest can never be acceptable to the international community," Maine said.

Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and one of the world's most prominent political prisoners, has spent 10 of the last 17 years in confinement.

Burma's ruling military junta took power in 1988 after crushing mass pro-democracy demonstrations in the country they renamed Myanmar.

In 2000, the junta refused to hand over power when Suu Kyi's party won a general election by a landslide.

Crumbling house

In Burma, some 200 supporters defied off a day of ceremonies near Suu Kyi's crumbling Rangoon (Yangon) house, where she remains isolated from the outside world.

NLD supporters had to the party's orange uniforms and T-shirts bearing their leader's picture chanted "Free Suu Kyi!"

"We wish her good health," said Lei Lei, a senior member of the NLD, the opposition party that won the 1990 election and whose members have been targeted with harassment and arrest.

Suu Kyi, the foreign-educated daughter of national independence hero Gen. Aung San, succeeded as a heroine-envoy in 2003 and was treated last week for stomach troubles, her physician said.

Five Buddhist monks prayed for her health and her immediate release from house arrest.

Supporters in Australia, Asia, Europe and the United States and ethnic minority guerrillas and refugees near and across the Thai border also marked her birthday.

In Bangkok, monks and supporters held a birthday ceremony outside the Burmese embassy, following similar events with hundreds of people in Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi at the weekend.

In the United States, home to Burma's largest exile community, the Washington-based UN Campaign for Burma organized events in more than 270 towns and cities over the weekend to demand her freedom.

Aung San Suu Kyi walked and worked abroad, including for the United Nations, but returned to Burma in 1988 to care for his ailing mother.

That same year, mass pro-democracy rallies broke out but were quashed by the military boss. Kyi subsequently the NLD and won just under house arrest in 1989. She refused an offer of freedom if she left the country for good.

The opposition party won the 1990 elections by a landslide for the military, which has ruled the country since 1962, ignored the results.

No communication

Her near-room house arrest began after her convoy was attacked by a junta-backed mob during a political tour of northern Burma on May 30, 2003. The attack left four people dead and Aung San Suu Kyi was briefly jailed.

She has had no contact with the outside world since, except for a midsummer walks and a monthly visit from her doctor. She lives with two maids but is not allowed to receive guests, including her two adult sons.

AP, AFP

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A tribute to unwavering hope of world's refugees

UNITED Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres (second from right) and other aid officials walk through the Mtabila refugee camp in western Tanzania. AFP

(PHILIPPINE) is the statement of United Nations High Commissioner Antonio Guterres on the occasion of World Refugee Day of 2006.—ed.)

IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE a refugee, forced to flee persecution, civil war or violence and leaving behind everything that is there—home, family and friends. And suddenly you find yourself in a strange land, dependent on the generosity and help of others. Imagine the sense of isolation, of helplessness, of anxiety about an uncertain future.

And yet, if there is one common trait among the tens of millions of refugees that we at the UN refugee agency have dealt with over the past 55 years, it's the fact that despite losing everything, they never give up hope.

And this World Refugee Day of 2006, we honor refugees and displaced people all over the world who, on the strength of that hope, have overcome enormous odds to start rebuilding their lives. Such refugees have a testimony to tell, and collectively theirs is a story about the triumph of hope over despair.

Keeping hope alive

In turn, the prospect of such solutions enables refugees to maintain their hope for a better future. And since the past 55 years, UNHCR and its partners have helped more than 50 million uprooted people to restart their lives—and that work continues in more than 100 countries.

But unfortunately, more than 9 million refugees have been in exile for five years or longer—and some of them for decades. Keeping their hope alive in the responsibility of everyone, including international leaders who should be doing more to resolve these situations and to address the root causes of conflict and displacement.

All of us can do our part to give hope to the uprooted—from a simple, welcoming smile to refugees in our own communities, to the participation of individuals, businesses and governments in supporting the field activities of UNHCR and its partners around the world.

And next this June 20, refugees coming for the displaced. World Refugee Day is part of that common effort as we gather June 20 to 21st and count, in refugee camps and in remote settlements to pay tribute to the courageous, to the caring, to the men of hope, refugees—and to assist them that they are not forgotten.

Thank you.

An era of declining support for uprooted

Front page A1

Mohammed, who fled from Mecca to Medina.

The more prominent ones in recent times were physicist Albert Einstein, former US Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Henry Kissinger, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Their impact on their countries of asylum and the world at large—for better or for worse—has been acknowledged. Mainly, despite a few detractions, history confirms refugees have enriched their societies.

Hope over despair

Early next June 20 has been designated as "World Refugee Day" to remind peoples and nations of the continuing tolerance and the need for support of the asylum regime to meet today (but full text above.)

"If there is one common trait among the tens of millions of refugees that we at the UN refugee agency have helped over the past 55 years, it's the fact that despite losing everything, they never give up hope," Guterres said.

"Hope." That's the theme of this year's celebrations at UNHCR gripe-joke with the problems of migration and xenophobia, particularly in free world countries where most refugees come to today's news from and where they are encountering difficulties in the wake of 9/11.

Fight for refugee status

In recent years, the quality of asylum has come under attack, ranging from an "compassion fatigue" set in in recession-wracked economies and the world's gone weary of benevolent conflicts and the specter of terrorism.

For example, Jose Maria Sison, 67, a University of the Philippines professor who founded the Communist Party of the Philippines, was granted asylum in The Netherlands after he received amnesty and was released from jail by President Corazon Aquino in 1986.

As the war against terrorism announced by the United States after 9/11, the CPP was declared a terrorist organization. Sison's refugee status was subsequently revoked by the Dutch government. He is now struggling to remain in The Netherlands.

But Sison's other might well be in jeopardy after the Arroyo administration announced that it was filing rebellion charges against him.

UNHCR

The Geneva-based UNHCR was set up in 1951 to help victims of World War II. In its work to find solutions for people who have left their countries to escape persecution and violence has not stopped since.

The number of people who have sought UNHCR protection in asylum countries and still in returning home reached a peak of over 30 million in the post-Cold War era. This followed the disintegration of the Soviet Union and outbreaks of ethnic strife and wars in such areas as Iraq and Afghanistan, the Balkans, Central Asia and Africa.

Last year, the UNHCR said the number of refugees in 2000 had reached a 15-year low of 8.4 million but its global count of uprooted people rose to nearly 21 million. This figure includes people living in "refugee-like circumstances" within their own countries. In Iran-related parlance, they are called "internally displaced people," or the IDPs.

Because of its experience in dealing with displacement following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia under a special mandate, the UNHCR in recent years has been called upon to help the IDPs, or what diplomats have increasingly been crowded "internal refugees."

Afghans, Colombians, Iraqis, Sudanese and Somalis currently account for these people "of concern" to the UNHCR.

Viet refugees

The Philippines was host to thousands of Indochinese refugees who left in rickety boats following the triumph of communist armies in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the 1970s.

The remaining Vietnamese refugees from camps on Palawan finally were asylum in the United States and departed in 2005, paving a clear to one of history's most dramatic moments in the last century.

As a reporter, I covered the arrival of Vietnamese refugees washed ashore in the Philippines after the fall of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City, in 1975.

They brought with them harrowing tales of their flight from Vietnam, their struggle for survival across the South China Sea in rickety boats or overcrowded vessels manned by "human traffickers," their hunger, their thirst, their sea burials, pirates and wicked storms.

Their stories were the renewed from the fascinating refugee story in the classic movie "Casablanca"—of the star-crossed love affair between a curious aspirant played by Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart and an asylum seeker and café their flame portrayed by Ingrid Bergman.

Pushbacks

Many of the Vietnamese boat people perished and did not make it to the "first asylum countries" on the rim of the Asia mainland. Even when they did, some were pushed back out to the sea.

Still, they kept coming out, until overcrowded countries in the West finally hammered out in 1989 a "comprehensive plan of action." This reversed the tide, but not after a decade of painful intimidation by the international community that included Vietnam, drones and resettlement countries.

By then, I had joined the UNHCR. My first field assignment was Bangladesh, joining a team that provided emergency assistance to some 200,000 Biharis (or what they said and hated Islam perpetrated by the repressive Burmese regime.

Now that I am out of the agency and have become an business editor, I can use the term "repatriate."

Each date to the UNHCR, if I had used it in any of my reports, I would have been easily kicked out of the service, even if the intention was to draw world sympathy to those oppressed and put pressure on dangerous to stop the atrocities. Advocacy is one of the UNHCR's functions.

Solutions often illusive

I would have been accused of endangering UNHCR work, angering donors sympathetic to human rights and compromising possible diplomatic solutions, even if that took years. Resolving a refugee situation is often a long and tedious process.

There is still a "residual caseload" of some 20,000 refugees in camps outside Cox's Bazar.

The agency's staff members became so hardened to the ordeals to bring relief aid, keep asylum countries from expelling refugees and help in their eventual repatriation or resettlement.

Those overriding tasks are highlighted in High Commissioner Guterres' message today and his agency's report on the state of the world's refugees and the IDPs that he has to care for. It also highlights the urgency of the relief aid if they are to continue to help and make a difference.

VIETNAMESE refugees in the Philippines prepare for resettlement to the United States. REUTERS

Genocide in Darfur

The continuing displacement in the Darfur region of Sudan is one of the UNHCR's biggest preoccupations these days.

Guterres has bemoaned how suffering continue to go on a campaign in what humanitarian workers have described as a campaign of ethnic cleansing—something deep dread, dread in in the Balkans and the 1994 Rwandan kingdom of Rhwaza in the 1990s.

Washington says the atrocities committed against the Darfurians constituted genocide.

In one of my last assignments before I left the UNHCR, last year I spent two weeks in Chad where our staff had been providing assistance to camps set up for some 200,000 people, mainly women and children, from Darfur.

The main difficulty was that the refugees refused to go for fears their land from on the other side, where around a million men of their kind had been uprooted. They preferred to remain in the harsh frontier in the remote border of Libya, Chad and Sudan. There's no water in the Western Sahara, where it's dangerous for during the day and freezing during the night, and where dependable food also means hunting and/or for.

The Congo

Another area of major concern reported by the UNHCR is the Democratic Republic of Congo. The ramifications of the genocide that tore apart tiny Rwanda in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa 12 years ago and left some 800,000 people dead continue to haunt the DRC, previously called Zaire, where the "genociders" had fled.

I had kept track out of Geneva of developments on the ground in Rwanda, reporting on atrocities to rescue commissioner as gangs of the majority Hutus hunted the Tutsi minority.

On April 28, 1994, I got on the phone to our field officer in Tanzania. He was frantic. A quarter of a million Rwandans had just swept into Tanzania over the past 24 hours as Tutsi rebels based in Uganda closed on sporting across the former Belgian colony.

The field officer was trying to mobilize assistance for the refugees along the border town of Ngara. That's how first situations could develop in the UNHCR and I understood the need for where's relief up there.

Two summers ago, I joined a US diplomatic delegation that was looking into the possibility of helping repatriate Congolese refugees languishing in camps in Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

The refugees had been forced from their homes in self and can but, the between Congolese forces, armed groups loyal to Rwanda fighting themselves transplants based in the DRC Rwanda and a number of splinter groups loyal militias that were fighting alongside Tutsi and Hutus, the antagonists in the theater-in conflict.

Intense fighting broke out in Bukavu, sending the 75 000 and prompting the then number of the AU-UNHCR to the edge of Lake Kivu.

Heart of darkness

It is a region rich in minerals, gold and diamonds but has been ravaged by conflict and by extreme poverty. This heart of darkness had fired the imagination of Joseph Conrad. Loads are works had inspired such representations as Pictures and Shadows. Violence continues to scare away investors.

In terrible years, humanitarian workers themselves have become targets in conflict situations.

Guterres said early 10 persons of the House members were competent.

"There 23 deserving congressmen are qualified in run for the Senate. The other 90 persons or around 233 congressmen may just run for mayor or governor in their respective towns or provinces. Anyway, they are pure mix local or parochial agenda," the Tugon ng Bayan resource said.

From the symbol of the Red Cross is no longer honored.

In some ways, this has rendered activities of UNHCR workers in the field, in some ways, the people themselves who humanitarian agencies are trying to help are responsible.

Officials in the Rwanda capital of Kigali used to denounce Hutu insurgents allegedly using as refugees some of the more Rwandan camps but really carved out of virtual statehouse-gone-dotted with building volcanoes in the DRC's Goma region by aid workers.

Their lieutenants went to refer to the case of Tikoro in the picture pretty town of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Refugees aren't supposed to subvert their countries of origin.

Silk-stockinged

Warren had himself sailed against activities of far political enemies who had become refugees in the United States. His purported public word to call them either the "silk-stockinged revolutionaries" or derisively as the "fresh-cheeked."

In recent years, the work of the UNHCR has been further complicated by the influx of the so-called "economic migrants" in the West and the activities of "human smuggling rings" between Africans and eastern Europeans who are trying to escape poverty at home and seek opportunities in the industrial heartlands of the West.

There is there....again for her, to or for the worse dependency on one's perspective of the Filipino TSTs. They are the shadowy souls in the affluent countries trying to eke out a living despite the odds to help families back home sending youths to economy kept afloat by dollar remittances of overseas workers.

'... Your huddled masses'

Nationalist groups in England, France and Australia, among others, have confused illegal immigrants with asylum seekers, diluting the refugee instrument that has served well these genuinely in need.

There's an inscription on the statue of Liberty on Ellis Island in New York harbor that extols the emotion of visitors: "Give me your tired, your poor huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

It remains a cornerstone of the asylum regime that the UNHCR assists to keep open to those who flee persecution and violence, relevant to this day—as to the case of Brutigan Aquino 20 years ago.

Group wants Charter change ...

Front page A1

the House of Representatives but to rule the Senate.

Tugon ng Bayan identifies itself as a national people's movement for political, economic, cultural and electoral reforms.

Unlike Tugon ng Bayan that favors a signature drive to amend the Constitution, Tugon ng Bayan is calling for Charter change through a constitutional convention whose members are elected.

"We agree that does should be Charter change. However, we strongly disagree with the current proposal of Tugon ng Bayan for our country to again shift to a parliamentary form of government," said Francisco Carbungco III, one of Tugon ng Bayan's convenors.

Carbungco said the parliamentary system adopted during the Marcos regime did not work.

Carbungco was a member of the National Youth Commission during the Ramos administration and one of the prime movers of Kabayan for President Movement that pushed then Sen. Noli de Castro to run for president in 2004.

He said a strong presidential and unicameral system would work for the country.

Tugon ng Bayan is set to file a petition in the Commission on Elections assuring that it had gathered more than 9 million signatures. Proponents of a people's initiative must collect the signatures of at last 12 percent of all the registered voters nationwide and 3 percent to each legislative district.

Malacañang is supporting the signature drive in the Senate and the House but is unable to garner the votes needed to amend the Constitution through Congress being convened into a constituent assembly.

Keep Cha-cha out of schools, say studes

By Alexis Pope

MILITANT ATU deans yesterday wanted the government to keep Charter change away from the schools.

Bahaman Party rite president Carl Mati Ramota said in a statement the government would be better off building facilities on the problems of the educational system rather than trying to woo students to support the Palace-backed Charter change initiative.

"The government wants to squeeze [money and encouragement] from debates on Charter change in schools yet it remains silent and inefficient on the very issues that continue to cripple our education system. There are more important issues that deserve thorough discussion and immediate action, such as finding solutions to alleviate poverty and hunger and save the education sector from its pitiful condition, other than selfish political moves and platforms," Ramota said.

He said that while the government seemed to have the funds for forums on Charter change, "state schools remain crippled and operate in decrepit conditions due to poor education spending."

Ramota also said that contrary to claims made by Cha-cha advocates, the proposal is aimed the Constitution did not enjoy wide support from the students.

"If they think they can fool students to support Arroyo's Cha-cha, then they are terribly mistaken. The youth are more critical and discerning. We definitely know better and we assume of politicking can make the youth believe otherwise," he said.

Ramota said the proposed changes to the Constitution were clearly anti-youth as they seek to delete several provisions that are supportive of the youth and students.

"How can they say that Cha-cha is for the youth if it seeks to delete the Constitutional provisions that recognize the youth's role in nation-building and instead, the government is to give priority to education and the welfare of young Filipinos?" he pointed out.

Under the proposed Cha-cha, Sections 13 and 17 of Article II, or the Declaration of State Policies and Principles, which give proper recognition to the youth's important role in society and stipulate the protection of the youth's welfare and right to education will be deleted.

"There is no place for Arroyo's Cha-cha train in our campuses. The youth and students will continue to be at the forefront of the fight to stop Cha-cha and defend our democracy, independence and civil liberties. The only place for the Cha-cha express is the junkyard of history," Ramota said.

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RP-wide quake drills set at schools today

MILLIONS OF STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC elementary and high schools will participate in a nationwide earthquake drill today officials announced yesterday.

At exactly 9 a.m., sirens would go off simultaneously at 42,000 public schools to signal the start of simulated evacuation procedures during an earthquake.

"There is no scientific way to predict earthquakes but we can save lives if students prepare for a major one... because it's happening to our neighbors," said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. in a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. The briefing was attended by officials of various government departments and agencies.

Cruz, who chairs the multi-agency National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), was referring to the powerful earthquakes that recently struck Japan and Indonesia, where thousands were killed.

He said the drills will test the preparedness of the public schools "since children are most vulnerable when earthquakes strike."

Cruz said the schools would be evaluated on how well they could respond to a strong earthquake.

Of the 42,000 public elementary and high schools nationwide, 132 were chosen as pilot schools to coordinate, evaluate and report on the outcome of the drills in their areas. Doris J. Bumatay

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'Tiya Dely' cited

HEIDA "TIYA DELY" Magpayo is this year's recipient of the UP Gawad Plaridel from the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication.

Magpayo won the nod for excellence and versatility in the field of radio broadcasting, her unblemished reputation and credibility as a broadcast practitioner, her scholarly researches of Filipino talents and the performing arts, her sustained efforts to instill Filipino values and propagate the use of the national language, and her ability to reach out to the widest audience possible.

The award comes with a trophy by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, to be awarded on July 14 at the Cine Adarna of the UP Film Institute. Magpayo will deliver a lecture on contemporary Philippine theatre.

Established by the UP College of Mass Communication, the annual Gawad Plaridel recognizes Filipino media practitioners who have excelled in any of the media and performed with the highest level of integrity. On its 23rd year, earlier Gawad Plaridel recipients were Inquirer Opinion Special Editor Sheila Coronel and Mina Navarro.

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3 Army battalions join anti-NPA drive

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The new units that had been added to Cabuay's command were made up of 1,200 men belonging to the 3rd, 6th and 9th Infantry Battalions.

The 3rd IB will be placed under the command of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the feared NPA nemesis who operates in Central Luzon and parts of northern Luzon, while the 6th IB will be based in Tuguegarao, according to Cabuay.

The 9th IB will be deployed to Bicol.

On arriving at Camp Aguinaldo, the veteran combatants were treated to a "Boodle Fight" lunch of rice, hard-boiled eggs, smoked fish and sardines.

Reduced fighting

Cabuay told the reporters that wiping out the NPA rebels would be easier with the pullout of several units from Mindanao in the wake of the reduced fighting there as a result of the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He rejected suggestions that the reinforced campaign against the NPA would result in more human rights violations.

"That was an unfair impression. For one, only 20 percent of our soldiers are directly involved in combat operations against the enemy," Cabuay said.

"The rest are involved in civic operations. They build roads, schools and barangay halls. They even plant trees in our ranges [forests]."

Cruz firm on 10 years

Military intelligence estimates the NPA's strength at 7,000 men. It reached its peak of over 25,000 fighters in the late 1980s.

The NPA claims to have established 120 so-called guerrilla zones covering 900 municipalities in 73 provinces nationwide.

Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor said last week that Ms Arroyo had found "reaching" the defense department timetable of ending the insurgency within 10 years and that she wanted a victory in "critical areas" in Luzon in nine to five years.

Other Cabinet ministers have disputed Defensor's statement, saying Ms Arroyo wanted the rebels vanquished by the end of her term in 2010.

Yesterday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. stuck to his original target.

Cutting up the money

"[The fight] will be finished in six to 10 years. But for the critical areas, we want to see dramatic results within two years," Cruz told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said he agreed with Defensor's idea of having short-, medium- and long-term targets.

He identified the critical areas as Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and Bicol.

Ms Arroyo has announced she would release an extra P1 billion to boost military and police operations against the communists.

Yesterday she said P400 million of the amount would go to the Armed Forces and this would be used for such things as buying fuel boats.

Another P300 million will be used for the "left-hand approach, which is community development in the areas already freed of the insurgency" and the other P300 million will go to the Philippine National Police, Ms Arroyo said.

Discipline needed

"You can reallocate part of this to buy more guns for the anti-insurgency campaign," Mr Arroyo told Interior Secretary Rodolfo Pono and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Cruz tried to soften the impact of the President's order, which has been seen as tantamount to an open declaration of war.

"It's not an all-out war. It's a total government approach," he said. "If it's only up to the military, it cannot be done. We should have a strong military and a total government approach."

With the heightened campaign against the NPA, Cruz said civilian casualties were unavoidable and asked military commanders to ensure discipline among their troops.

"Discipline is important. It is very important to minimize collateral damage. That was the experience in Basilan. There should be discipline among the troops," he said.

Support from foe

Ms Arroyo yesterday got an unexpected ally in her stepped-up war with the communist rebels.

Backing the P1-billion boost in military funds, opposition Sen. Sheilla Lacson said it was high time the government took serious efforts to end the insurgency and its root causes, such as poverty and injustice.

"It is high time that the government showed its iron fist against communist rebels," Lacson said in a statement.

But Lacson said the war should not be at the expense of human rights and that the government should institute safeguards against corruption in the disbursement of such a huge amount.

An administration senator said a military solution alone would not end the insurgency.

Sen. Ralph Recto said, "The problem is economic and until we solve the economic problems ... we cannot do away with the problem of the communist rebellion."

Senga echoed the same theme in Cavite, saying the insurgency problem would not be solved through military operations alone.

He said the government must also show the people that it could deliver the basic services needed.

"[Insurgency] is not just the problem of the AFP and our government. This concerns all Filipinos," he said.

As part of the heightened operations against the communist rebels, Senga said the military would deploy more troops from Mindanao to rebel areas in Luzon. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PHILIPPINE Navy SEALS maneuver for assault during a counterterrorism training demonstration at Tangke Point in Cavite City. AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga gags for air after swimming for a kilometer as part of his initiation as an adopted Navy SEALS member.

WHILE clad in camouflage, private armed forces elite Navy troops approach a target as part of their training to counter the insurgency

GE Money Bank
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GE imagination at work

Gov't eyes local peace initiatives

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION YESTERDAY rejected any move to return to the peace table with communist leaders anytime soon, saying it would rather pursue peace initiatives at the local level for now.

Peace Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor indicated the government was not about to resume talking peace with National Democratic front leaders.

"The government peace panel will [still] be there but at the same time we'll pursue peace initiatives at the local level," Bunye told reporters.

"There are groups that have expressed their intention to return to the government fold and to help the government," he added.

Defensor said that going back to the peace table with NDF leaders was something "worth looking at, but what's important is the local peace initiative."

Peace and order councils

He said that while in the past it was the national government that negotiated peace with the NDF, it was now important to emphasize pursuing local peace initiatives.

"We don't have to be dependent on that [talks with the NDF]," Defensor said, noting that holding talks at the national level tended to be chaotic.

Existing peace and order councils in the regions could be "revived" for these local peace initiatives, he said.

NPA to benefit, too

Defensor said he was aware, for instance, that local officials in Isabela, a hotbed of the insurgency, were holding "back-channel" talks with the local NPA.

With the government pushing through with its mega development plans in northern Luzon, Defensor underscored the need to negotiate peace in the area while the development projects were being implemented. "Because NPA members and their families will also benefit from them."

He said it was quicker to attain peace at the localized

Civilian supporters of NPA warned

CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS OF THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army may find themselves the target of military operations if they join the rebels in combat, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez warned yesterday.

In an interview, Gonzalez said it was free for people to help keep the peace to avoid becoming "collateral damage" during skirmishes between soldiers and insurgents.

Asked if troops would go after civilian supporters of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its army, Gonzalez replied: "Supporters can be combatants ... If they are combatants or join combatants during their armed operations, why not?"

He noted there could be supporters joining the combatants by carrying their bullets and other equipment, or helping in the rebels' plotting and identifying targets of attack.

In such cases, he said "they could be charged as conspirators."

"The best way is to penalize the role played by the people who are involved," Gonzalez said at the end to clearly identify combatants and noncombatants.

He cited cases involving children and women recruited by the NPA who later got hurt during armed clashes or during military or police raids.

"In any battle, there will be civilian casualties ... which is not intended," Gonzalez said, adding:

"The government never likes to hurt civilians. That's why you speak about collateral damage." Armando A. Doyo

Left groups on orders of battle, say papers

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story, as well as problematic.

"It is often the case that whenever assessment is produced, it is invariably inconclusive, superficial, and/or completely off-target with the real picture," the document said.

Quarterly review

The "target research concept" would require intelligence units to do an extensive research on "sectoral and NDF (National Democratic Front) organizations," starting in September 2004 until June 2005. Their output would serve as a basis for a quarterly "assessment and front organization order of battle," according to the document.

An order of battle is a list of enemies ranked according to their importance.

Background information accompanying the paper showed the four organizations to be instrumental in bringing the Communist Party of the Philippines' program to the fore through the various sectors they represent.

"CPP programs are being implemented on the various sectors comprising the positive forces of the revolution which is unified and implemented through the different CPP sectoral front organizations," the paper said.

Via e-mail

The IAM (the national alliance of peasant organizations, said it submitted the papers to Human Rights Commissioner Dominador Calandra via e-mail.

Carl Arellano, IAM information officer, said his group received the documents via e-mail from a source inside Camp Aguinaldo.

The Bayan-Liberation movement's copies of the same documents from a source close to personalities in the military and in the mainstream opposition.

"The papers don't say outright that members of national groups are to be killed but they do use the term neutralize. Now, what does neutralize mean? These already point to the attacks against members of militant groups," Ata told the reporters.

The use of the term "Order of Battle" in which several groups would be listed also had the militant group thinking they would be placed on a so-called hit list.

Phase 2 and 3

Phase 2 of the target research would require the drawing up of "a separate" order of battle for women and their organizations.

Phase 3 requires a core build-up against personalities and national organizations supporting the CPP, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao yesterday said he believed the government could stamp out the insurgency in two years if it is supported by the public.

It would also be up to the public to monitor human rights abuses that might arise in a result of the stepped-up campaign against the rebels, Lomibao said.

Government warned

"If all helped here, it can be done). The police are not the only force. This is a total approach. It will involve local government units and all agencies of government to support this program," he said.

But more specially, [it will need] the support of the business, the wider Filipino people," Lomibao said.

"Collateral damage" can also be avoided if operational procedures are closely followed, he said.

The reasoned out administration directive of finally eliminating the insurgency prompted human rights groups yesterday to warn the government against violating its commitment to international human rights agreements.

The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra) said the just campaign of President Joseph Estrada against the Moro rebels and Gloria Arroyo against the communist guerrillas rise to the phenomenon of human rights refugees.

Facing world community

"With the history we have, we know that human rights can never be promoted, as we expect it can be, through policy crackdown with this policy," Pahra secretary general Renato Mitsuoka said in a forum.

"I don't know how the Philippines can face the international community if human rights violations rise between now and 2008, when they expect to end the insurgency," Mitsuoka said.

The Philippines is a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Band-aid solution

"International human rights law strongly states that collateral damage should be avoided by all means," said Bo Reyes, former executive director of The Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services.

Amnesty International (AI) said the campaign was another band-aid solution to "a problem that is way, way deeper than it seems" and which would see real while poverty lingered.

Lahaw ng Mass chair Francisco Nemenzo said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's statement that the loss of innocent lives might be unavoidable in the campaign against insurgency was a "barefaced admission of disrespect for human rights."

"It is another policy statement giving official consent to the rampage of political killings ... [of] unarmed activists," Nemenzo said.

Cases before UN

"The 95 billion of the lawyer ... [administration's] military spending] will not amount to anything because the people's struggle will rummage," Nemenzo said. "There will always be those who will take up arms because of those policies."

Lahaw ng Mass, along with other groups, plan to bring up the human rights violations cases in the DPRRC, which convened in Geneva yesterday.

"If the government finds it honorable to lie a human rights protector, it should reveal policies that violate human rights," Mitsuoka said. *With reports from Jodge A. del Puerto and Blanche S. Rivera*

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Don't keep Joma, Dutch gov't told

By Armand N. Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE BENT on deporting Jose Ma. 'Joma' Sison, exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, before the eyes of his Dutch hosts.

That, at least, was the impression that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez gave yesterday.

In an interview, Gonzalez said he was sure the government had filed against Sison in provincial courts were primarily intended to get him locked out of the Netherlands, where he has been living in exile for 15 years.

"We are trying to convince the Netherlands to think that ... Sison is a criminal and they should not harbor criminals," he said of their objective to filing murder charges against Sison for the killing of ranking communist leaders Romulo Rivisme and Adriano Tabara.

"We are laying the ground rules to get the Netherlands to be convinced that these people are undesirables," he said. "If the Netherlands government will repatriate, what can he do? He has no passport?"

The Philippine government had canceled Sison's passport.

Gonzalez said Sison had also been charged with the killing of Cagayan Valley Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

"There are people complaining against them (the communists). The wives of some of the people whom they have killed are complaining against them. The government has filed charges against Sison and his group. Then cases must be filed so that the Netherlands would know," Gonzalez said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

'Collateral damage'

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ SAID THE other day that "you can't avoid collateral damage" in the conduct of the government's all-out campaign against the communist insurgency. He said the loss of civilian lives might be unavoidable in the all-out war.

"Collateral damage," a euphemism first used by the United States military, means damage and destruction of

EDITORIAL

targets or personnel not considered to be valid military targets. The term was frequently used during the Vietnam War and, again, during the invasion of Iraq.

Inadvertent casualties and destruction inflicted on civilians during military operations are usually acceptable. Accidents do happen in every battle, life, even in peacetime situations. But the trouble with the phrased all-out war is that "collateral damage" may become not just an accidental or isolated occurrence but a fact of everyday life because of the overweening desire of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her generals to finish off the communist insurgency within two years.

Even now, while the all-out campaign has not officially started, leftist activists are being killed by the scores. Not a week passes when a leftist activist is not slain in some part of the country. To date, 215 leftists have been killed, and the "criminal suspects" are the Armed Forces and the police. With the acceleration of the campaign against the communist insurgency, shall we expect a doubling, if not a tripling, of the casualties in the ranks of the activists?

We suppose the intensified campaign will involve the incarceration of leaders on certain issues and orders allegedly or hotbeds of communist insurgency. Mai. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division, has pinpointed as targets the towns of Labas and Santa Ana in Pampanga and the towns of Pressa and Liwa and General Tinio and Gapan City in Nueva Ecija.

Palparan, whose iron-hand ways of dealing with rebels and their sympathizers has earned him the moniker of "Berdugo" (Executioner or Butcher), can be expected not to give a hoot about the lives and human rights of unarmed leftists and civilian sympathizers of the NPA. Whenever Palparan has been assigned he has left a trail of death and destruction. Can he be expected to be any more careful about observing the sanctity of the lives of unarmed civilians, as well as their human rights, now that the go ahead has been given for a full-blast offensive? And how many more Palparans are there in the military?

Can we expect the military and the police not to gun down unarmed, defenseless civilians suspected of harboring NPA guerrillas? Shall we now resign ourselves to seeing entire villages and barangays being shot up and razed and their people rounded up and tortured on suspicion that they are NPA sympathizers, if not actually NPA guerrillas?

Can we expect the military to be careful to avoid killing unarmed civilians caught in the crossfire? Gonzalez has already given them a study and put matters: "They are part of the collateral damage" of the unrestricted campaign against communist insurgency.

Witnesses and bloodbaths have all been carried out in the name of suppressing insurgencies and civil wars. All to the Malaguena maracas, American soldiers waged a "kill and burn" campaign designed to reduce Samar to "a howling wilderness" during the Filipino-American War (called the "Philippine insurgency" by the Americans). The massacre at My Lai was one of the most horrifying events during the Vietnam War which the great superpower America lost to Vietnamese wearing only black pajamas and rubber sandals and armed with the most primitive of weapons. In Iraq, scores of civilians are being slain in the campaign to stamp out the resistance. Are these considered "collateral damage"?

We don't think the President and her generals will give a damn if unarmed leftist militants and activists and innocent civilians are killed in the all-out war against communist insurgency. They have a deadly mission to carry out and a tight timetable to follow, and they will just charge the killing of innocent civilians to a convenient, catch-all euphemism: "collateral damage."

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Guarded skepticism

VIEWPOINT

Jose L. Hercules

AS EXPECTED, THERE'S AN UPROAR OVER President Macapagal-Arroyo's "end-game strategy" to crush decisively the festering 37-year communist insurgency.

"Nakes Bantay Laya", we're told, will usher a billion pesos into the battered under-funded Armed Forces of the Philippines, the weakest among Asean military forces. It would take place into insurgent-hotbed P75 billion for development projects, hopefully without pork-barrel packaging and.

There's credit-spilling from the DAP and other economic measures. So, will the administration flood the old "all-out-war" and all-out peace" approach? The late President Ramon Magsaysay decimated the Huk rebellion with that policy.

The machine, with a fractious use of guarded skepticism. Why?

There've been the predictable knee-jerk reactions. "Hysterical," sneered Jose Ma. Sison from his bourgeois haven in The Negro Antiquous Sicily-Left Rep. Rafael Mariano grumbled that the plan "killed the non-threat peace talks between government and rebels."

Who's kidding who? There's little prospect of the rebels getting anywhere, given their terrible ideological credentials, across the Philippine Human Development Report 2005.

Former communist rebel Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus put it more pithily in an earlier blog" interview: "Some want to just swing their peace tables for peace talks purposes. ... What he wants is an end of political power through armed struggle. Any time there happens any gubernatorial election, those senate shouldn't be counted by hand."

Yet people rarely act so to grind any communist rebellion. Rebel ranks have ebbed since its peak in 1987, columnist Armando Doronila notes. There's the rise of a communist rebellion, to a the abundant resources using war on the Reds, as the former Professor Marcos did, as a ploy for marketing support."

"So, arming the Left with armed rebellion, the President effectively counters the use of death squads to silence political dissenters."

and warns Randy Daud's war on.

The Irish record underscores the point. In a recent personal letter, the three Catholic bishops of Samar, for instance, denounced Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for branding on economic projects supporting communist-or the government.

Reassurance stems from a conviction of many that the insurgency's appeal is not so obsolete failed ideology. At the core of this protracted insurgency's cadre before dismal league. If hostile, unsafe schools and connected opportunities for people are clear of the land, jobless unions, new wrinkle in fighting grounds, etc. by an restrictions and blind eyes' local war lords, cronyism, and job, with and armed "pressure on guards." These were rebellion.

"Nakes Bantay Laya" will be rejected disruptive as a country-wide rebellion. Rather, counterinsurgency fears from pinnacle-out fear of impoverished indigenous people, the countryside hills and regional urban centers.

Poverty incidence can run as high as 60 percent, as in Eastern-impacted Pantes. Unemployment rates climb. Those reach the unemployment situation classes that describe self-suicide down from a "growing economy."

In such a setting, the poor do not produce. Rebels do they believe 'is a current interesting' to source resources like water or forests. Why should they? They're not little dolts as a resident that office clients likely beyond cocktail chat of priests.

Many disgruntled have seen "go to peace" pressure as ploy from Insurrection-Judge Gloria Jean groups critical over best dragging on to have. In an administration court's rights for data of countryside-organizing Communists.

This run-in is not new. It raised hues on

Scourge

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW THE BBC DOCUMENTARY "HISTORY of World War II," a magnificent 25-tie work, some months ago, and found in two those parts in particular, entitled "The Nazis: a Warning from History" not just completely fascinating but completely relevant to our times. Of course, nothing can ever compare with the evil that was Hitler or Hussein, which caused the wholesale slaughter of peoples, all the more chilling for its sheer cold-bloodedness. Nothing can compare with it, but you can find parallels with it in methodology to feed in Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo's use of fear and OMG tactics to lord over.

Nowhere is the parallel more patent than in the use of scapegoats to justify the regime in indeed advance its cause. Hitler targeted the Jews for complete extermination. Bush targeted to drive home the viewpoint to a total and critical terrorist public that the Jews and communists were actually conniving to bring down the whole world.

He was, of course, aided in this respect by the brilliantly demented Joseph Goebbels. An unlucky group of people, who unleashed the "Big Lie" theory of information, which said that the bigger the lie, the more likely it was going to be believed. To the end of his days, Hitler maintained that the Jews were behind the conspiracy to force him to declare war on them. Communist parties and fronts everywhere were actually conniving to bring down the whole world.

Bush, Big Lie to date: the communists are in their scourge of the land and must be wiped out post-haste.

People have been asking me of late why little attention has been the box he's back when they seem largely consigned to today's repertoire. The reason is simple: like needs a scapegoat, just as Marcos did. And neither of them, the next three acts needed, Hitler did.

What Marcos learned out of the Reds as a scapegoat, let it, least, had a few things going for him. Though the Reds were not responsible for the bombings in Greater Manila (as it was called then)—he was, had in CBN probabilities, by way of Herberto Gonzales—they had at least been active. Not so the Reds today, although they were not strong enough to survive the country of the time, they had at least the potential to do so in time. Best members

swelling like a floodfix the day.

Some of that is there today. What has had the communist movement lost, as I've always contended, is not the military defeats they have suffered over time, it is the ideological and moral debacles they have suffered along the way. The potential of the movement to grow has been halted since the late 1980s by the Fall of the Wall, a modern metaphor for Martyrs' Bastille, which over-fell productive concentration, and the revelation of the "killing fields" both of which dashed the illusion it radiated in the past. If the movement's membership exist today, it is simply because of the hunger and misery of the poor. It is no longer the capacity of the movement to inspire the youth that swells its ranks, it is its capacity to give succor to it that keeps it in the operation.

Likewise, Reagan's big gun aimed in the past and in the Mugabe offense are aiding in the present, where in the sense in shooting down people whose only crime is to want to fend off the ravages of poverty and oppression?

The crime, in fact, as Bush is concerned, is survival. Hitler at least fanned the hatred the Jews and believed till the end of his days they had even obliterated from the face of the earth as enemies of necessity. The current attempt to wreak more holocaust upon the Reds merely reeks of cynicism—the BBC Hitler, they are not. Bush has not already tried to show that the scourge of the country is the Senate, which can be refuted by absolutely it, and that hasn't sold. Now she is trying to show that the scourge of this country is the Reds, which can be refuted by intimidating them. That too would sell, even if it will leave a mountain of corpses along the way. For a simple reason.

The public knows who the real scourge of this country is.

Cebu revision should lay legitimacy issue to rest

POLITICAL TIDBITS
Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

KEPT MOURNING LAST WEEK, EN ROUTE TO security meeting, I heard DZRH broadcaster-commentator Mike Enriquez discussing vote rigging. Both his regular program and his commentary on the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo would be filed by the opposition when Congress opens on July 24. The issue is still about alleged poll fraud. Enriquez's immediate reaction to the resolution of the electoral fraud would center much on those behind the country and the economy? I think that's a fair question to ask, but then that's assuming the opposition is primarily nothing the welfare of the country. It seems to be only after vote rigs GMA by her ex-cronies.

The reaction of GMA's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, to the report of a second impeachment is worth looking into. He opines that up to now the only impeachment case filed is one which does not have much as three opposition House members, led by Cebu Rep. Gloria Macapagal, had filed a case seeking temporary injunction from the Supreme Court soon after the Senate threw the case out for lack of jurisdiction. Macalintal says the high Court has not decided on that case, reasoned impeachment would violate the constitutional bar against two impeachment cases being filed within the same year against the same official. If the opposition wants to file another case, then the would challenge it in the light of this unresolved first case. And even if the Court should throw out the first case before July 24, the bar would still apply. It looks like the opposition overlooked this question in its eagerness to get GMA.

By the way, I wrote many months ago about the irregularities in Cebu being conducted by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal that arose from the protest case filed by Rep. Antonio Cuenco against Vice President Noli de Castro. At that time, Macalintal, who's the lawyer of both GMA and De Castro, assured that no significant finding of poll fraud was uncovered in Cebu, where GMA's lead over Fernando Poe Jr. was 1.02 million votes. Macalintal said the revision in Cebu was supposedly finished and the same findings remained the same: no significant fraud. In the petition, Legarda claimed she would gain some 400,000 votes in Cebu alone but it remains to be seen whether the PET will, in ruling on the protest, also admit their work, although Legarda will insist on presentation of the results as finalized.

At this point, Macalintal is pressing the PET for a "partial determination" of results on the basis of certain provisions in the Rules of Court. Macalintal and his team had to submit our ballots documentary each, after Cebu, those not still in provinces included in Legarda's petition, the report that if Cebu, which has the largest number of votes after Metro Manila, did not yield any significant change of lead, why proceed to the other provinces? Macalintal insists the case should be thrown out already.

Macalintal is arguing from the standpoint of presidentiality that there's no ballot issue, especially in the light of reports of a second impeachment case being prepared. Results for the two highest officials were drawn from the same ballots manually revised in Cebu, and Macalintal stresses that the results of the vice presidential race had settled in both cases. If this is so—and the PET is in the best position to know this—the issue of GMA's legitimacy ought to be laid to rest. If Cuenco's 1.02 million votes were found to be questionable, it should be remembered that GMA's dismissed 1.3 million vote margin over FPJ has a stronger basis than the Cuenco tapes. The latter's authenticity has never been established, and the opposition has admitted that they have been edited and censored, while the 1.3 million vote margin was reviewed political neutrality by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Namfrel citizens' watchdog group.

I earlier cited Speaker Jose de Venecia's plea to restore legislative franchise to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), to help augment the BP economic through investments in such projects as building one million low-cost houses and 75,000 or 100,000 subdivisions. But his speech at the opening today of the Fast Eddie Casino Pagcor Complex Forum last June 9 was unnerving also for the parlous condition of China's ruling property.

BP acknowledged China's growth has exceeded even Japan's phenomenal post-half a century ago. Japan's growth of 10% per year (from $400 billion in 1960 to between $80 and $000) multiplied a few times, by 1973, the London noted, some analysts expect China's GDP estimated by Bloomberg to be worth $2.26 trillion in 2005, will become the world's largest by 2020, overtaking the US. Even if China's growth rate the recession in other parts of Asia, China has emerged as the region's engine of growth.

BP reminded that China's amazing growth is also accompanied by huge problems. "Hundreds of millions have been pulled out of poverty, but more than 300 million people still live on less than $1 a day." He noted that from 1990 to 2002 alone, China has raised 150 million of its people from poverty to middle-class status (although it's widely acknowledged that China's definition of poverty is standard). But it has also created (or maintained, if China remains mired in deep poverty). With the rise of an affluent Chinese middle class intensely along the eastern seaboard and in the south), he noted that over Chinese tourists visited Hong Kong, while 1.5 million Chinese students studied abroad. Between 2000 and 2004, 50,000 Chinese tourists visited BP in 2004, and that jumped to 180,000 in 2005. A projected 87-percent increase in 2006 should just up that figure close to 180,000, but that target is unlikely to be met. Chinese tourists, who visit our neighbors, such as Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Three million Chinese tourists visit the Asian metro every year and this is bound to grow rapidly. De Venecia told Pagcor officials that we want to see more Chinese tourists in the Philippines but we want to see half a million Chinese tourists here per year.

Wrestling with God

MY LIFE, I BELIEVE, IS A PRETTY GOOD PITCH OF

I like to think of myself as Jacob who wrestled with an angel of the Lord before we belong with Esau and his gear. I do not know if God will allow me to overcome Him. But one thing is certain: I will not let go of Blessed Hebbaraccan.

I have written many times to help myself discover my in my past. I generally love to recall the years when my life evolved.

YOUNG BLOOD
Anton Dominic A. Magbanua

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the young people writing and below.—Ed.

I have learned that innocence does not break as suddenly as it does shatters. Rather, the process is gradual and innocence is removed before we learn by every event in our life. Then suddenly it dawns upon us that we are naked and vulnerable to the harsh realities of the world.

It is really sad when, devoid of innocence, we come to know that life is more than who we are.

Without my innocence now, after 19 years of living, I know I am wrestling with God. I wrestle with His because I believe God knew what my life is going to be. I must choose, not to stop. God has given me my share of trials, and I accept the tragedies and the sufferings. But I will choose how my life will go and my choice will not be dictated by any event that has happened or may not happen.

God has been generous to me with His blessings and trials. During my grade school years, my father's trade was drastically impacted by the Asian crisis, and his business was foreclosed by the bank and my mother lost everything she had because my father insisted on doing what he pleased with her property. Then my sister, the oldest of among us three siblings, got pregnant at 18.

I used to ask God what sins are bad committed. If He was teaching us the hard way, why did He have to be so hard and cruel. I cannot describe the tensions I suffered during those times. Most of all, I pined my mother who is closest to my heart.

There were the times when I thought God was evil. I read the Bible and it struck me that I had not left Moses that He was a very religious person and I did not share my doubts with her less she reproached me.

I am now in my third year college, and looking back, I realize that all the events in our life are not random happenings. It seems that there is an invisible Hand that arranges all the events in our lives to our benefit. Without tragedy and sufferings look hopeless, something happens to right the wrongs. But the compassionate only solves the problem in pain, and the evil depends on us.

My older sister gave birth to girl whom my parents adopted. My parents then sent her to one school after another, but she ended up in a state university because she eloped with another guy and their plan dropped out.

When I was in fifth grade, my mother left for the United States and worked as maid in her twenty body allowed. After six years, she was able to return to our home.

But those six years were the hardest and saddest years of my life. I felt that I was the only one who suffered in our family, whose principles did not match my own. I cried every night for my mama to be back. During those years, my sister and the sisters my mother had acquired with her owing to get a loan. When my mother came home my sister just disappeared. After six years, my father and my sister had nothing to show for their years of hard work. Everything went. But my mother accepted this fate with resignation.

My father still gets drunk every night but I do not blame him to hurt my mother anymore. Sometimes I wonder how can we put up with him. I know the pains him. She knows that if she throws him out of our home, he would have nowhere to go. She is a devoted wife and a loving mother who becomes obsessive. Sometimes I have to swallow my anger when I see him cursing my mother of lies, knowing it is stuff of cravings that keep our souls and bodies together.

From all these events of my life, I can see that God merely gives us the trials to build our lives. What we make of our lives depends on us.

In our everything that has happened in my life, I have come to believe that God is telling me: "What lies to us encourage that is filled with sufferings and short of joy!"

I have known people who smartly accept their fate. They are the assassin who cannot cope with changes because all they want is the life they have grown accustomed to. They do not see their true possibilities because they are afraid that they may not be capable of overcoming the trials that come their way.

But there must is the example of my mother who has suffered and endured so much and yet still managed to own us from poverty. I think she challenged her lives and the fate of her family by the very principles that those to change it and used it according to her own design.

That is how I want to live my personal legend. I want to choose what I will make of God's gifts and trials. I believe that by choosing, I will be able to forget a past that disappoints and that points to looking back at the things that I have achieved in spite of the odds I've taken on.

I finished high school with honors for both my academics and extracurricular activities. I entered state even. If I knew that when I received my medals, my mother would not be around to share this joy with me. I did not allow my depression and my loneliness to get in the way of the goals I set for myself. There were the times when I almost forgot God and I merely depended on my personal strengths. But I know that He never forgot me.

I reminded many my God and will continue to do so. Because no matter what life sends me, I will determine my own fate and the fate of my loved ones. From still, after all, is the gift He has given to His children. But I give Him He will make it one and bless us.

Anton Dominic A. Magbanua, 19, is a 3rd year nursing student at the University of St. La Salle Bacolod

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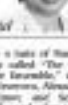
A glimpse of Russian culture

AT LARGE
Rina Jimenez-David



IT WAS BUT A GLIMPSE OF RUSSIAN CULTURE and arts, snippets of dance and music, but it was enough to ease one's concerns and send members of the audience into rapturous appreciation for things Russian.

The Russian Cultural Festival, held from June 14-18 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and the Philippines, and to celebrate Russian National Day. Wisely, the organizers decided to center the celebration on culture, exhibiting facets of Russian arts, as well as to showcase the talents of Filipinos who have studied and Russian arts. The last is exemplified by Ballet Manila, whose founder and director, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, studied ballet in Russia and received her training there. Macuja-Elizalde is the "Diaghilev" method of learning, with the help of Russian dance masters and orchestra.

So it was only apt that the Gala Night of the Festival Live Saturday evening opened with Ballet Manila star Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, accompanied by Jun Tabora, and couple of BM corps artists.

The number showed the BM dancers to display their technique and artistry to the full, but as always, it was Lisa, classical ballet's most perfect ballerina of today, who stole the show with her consummate artistry.

Ballet Manila was followed by a pas de deux by Rodion Shchedrin and Ekaterina Shapovalova of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, and by Vadim Ivlev, Ivlev Ekaterina and Alexander Volkov in "Giselle," impeccable in technique, lovely in their lyricism, the "Stars of Ballet" made their dancing seem effortless, with movements and body coordinating flawlessly.

Another pas de deux—between Ivlev and Andrey Bolotin—interrupted with their pas de deux of "Tarantella," while a female soloist, also named Ekaterina in the program, though I think it was Shapovalova, danced the "Dance of the Swan" from "Swan Lake." She impressed with her remarkable arms and liquid leg movement, though I felt she lacked interaction and demonstration. Still, it was an evening with enough treats for the ballet lover.

ECHOES of the Gala Night were present from Moscow, dubbed by international fame (due to a "young star" on the world stage, best known for his "Classical Symphony" with Prokofiev).

This Moscow, demonstrated, ably with Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2," followed by two encore numbers which he played with studied inspiration, spurred no doubt by the audience's most enthusiastic reception.

Mehmet's artistry and energy was all the more surprising given that, as Ileana Maruja confided, he had left Moscow the evening before nursing a ill. (Apparently Ileana had attended to performing more evening with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, so and, given the quality of his dancing in the Gala Night, I'm sure he more than acquitted himself.

Born in 1975 in Siberia, Mehmet made his studies and work in Moscow, and has been dancing since the 1990 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, which no pianist had won in 16 years. He has since blossomed into a performer of, as one critic noted, "immense charisma and energy." Mehmet's dancing is "full of passion, with much deliberation as Russian words in his piano, but the personal charm and gallantry was even more evident as he left himself in the music and danced with the joyful exuberance of the end of each piece, even the second encore.

Perhaps because Russian was not expected to render two more numbers, the gala performance came to an abrupt end when the house lights went on, with the audience clearly the only but they didn't stop them from responding about the good-looking Moscow-ing afterwards!

INDEED, the evening's performances gave us, but a glimpse, tantalizing and intriguing, of the richness of Russian culture. Once subjected by gossamer-like support, artistic expression, like the Bolshoi have of late been forced to adapt their styles to the tastes of tourists, forced to cater hands by mounting more subtle setting to broaden its repertoire. But as the festival "stars" about despite the hard times, the Bolshoi Company and ballet have managed to preserve their rigorous training and fidelity to the classics evident in their performances. There's a lesson here somewhere for our artistic companies and sponsors—indeed for our entire country—in the Russian experience, one of the arts. As long as artists like the Bolshoi dancers, the folklore musicians and the magnificent theaters continue to give their heart to their art, a nation's soul is not in danger of being artistically senseless soon.

Will China's Capitalist Revolution Turn Democratic

WORLD VIEW
Melvin Pei

COMMUNIST CHINA HAS EMBEDDED a monumental capitalist revolution in the last two decades, with an economy that is now six times bigger than it was 20 years ago. A nation placed in the global economy in the 1980s, China today is the world's third largest trading power. But if these stunning economic statistics make you think that so much capitalist development must also have brought more democracy to China, think again.

More than a decade after the end of the Cold War, communist China, according to which modernized economic growth, by increasing wealth boosts the size of the middle class, gradually makes a country more democratic. Yet the Chinese Communist Party remains intolerably. Chinese authoritarian ruling elite is not only determined to hold on to power, but it also has been smart enough to take adaptive measures aimed at countering the liberalizing influence of economic development.

Thus, for all its eye-popping economic achievements, China has made remarkably little progress in political liberalization. Instead, judging from the government's ideological campaigns, democracy in China has stalled, despite unprecedented economic prosperity and personal freedom.

For instance, in the mid-1980s, Chinese leaders seriously discussed and later drew up a blueprint for political reforms in China. Nearly all the major intellectual reforms, such as strengthening the legislature, holding village elections, and building a modern legal system, were born hard in the 1980s. Even Zhao Ziyang, Deng Xiaoping's reformist in the 1980, however, was a single major democratic reform initiative has been implemented.

Instead of democratic transition, China has witnessed a continuous consolidation of authority of the Communist Party. Since the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, the strengthening of a core party regime through expulsion and limiting and adaptation. Since 1989, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been pursuing a neo-pragmatic strategy to bolster regime legitimacy. Under this strategy, the party has sought to co-opt a wide social elites (the intelligentsia, professionals, and private entrepreneurs).

This strategy emphasizes the maintenance of substantive but selective repression against dissent, while promising to deliver economic growth and nationalism

Filipino legacies in Nepal before the Everest conquest

THE PHILIPPINES AND ASIA: ARE DEEP. Flowing with pride last month with the conquest of Everest by Leo Dramis, Erwin Emista and Sumi Gombio. But few Filipinos know that the surpluses that brought the Filipino mountain climbers to Kathmandu, Nepal, landed on an airport built by Filipinos more than 53 years ago. So, the runways, taxiways, parking aprons, access roads and most of the ground facilities of the King Tribhuvan International Airport were built by Philtech Inc., then the largest Filipino contractor for civil works and now a division of NDC Corp.

Filipino engineers and skilled technicians labored in the cold and harsh environment, under the shadows of the Himalayan Ranges, to open a portal into the once reclusive kingdom—the birthplace of Buddha, the land of the Shangri-la Americans called 'first' and the home of the lofted Sherpahs.

Not only that. There is one lasting legacy that the Filipinos share with the people of Nepal. It is known only to those who, like us, were fortunate to be there during those historic moments.

On that cold, windy Saturday morning when we turned over the newly completed airport to then His Majesty King Birendra for Filipinos, on Feb. 17, 1954, the ceremonies were disrupted by a People Power Revolution, which continued the week-long protests that the people started rise against the corrupt, monarchial government. After a very short speech on the ceremonial ground fronting the new airport terminal building, the King in his limousine, escorted by some mounted policemen and a truckload of Gurkhas, sealed back to the millenium-fortified Palace. There were talks that the marchers intended to trap the King in the airport or on the road.

On our way back to the Philippine Compound at Tripureswar Road, we met the hordes of people marching and carrying banners of all sorts and long wooden poles that they thumped on the road as they chanted slogans to music and blocked the road and everything in their path. It was the first time that the sound, rumble and poor people of Nepal rose against their king. But the most astonishing sight for me, a Filipino, was the revival of a definite race wearing yellow ribbons, wearing yellow bracelets, some of them flashing the L sign of Laban, and shouting Cory! Cory! Cory!

The People Power Revolution which started that fateful day in Nepal toasted bloody and ragged still to this day—and may go on for years to come. But it only achieved their goals and aims. Sad to say, People Power here in the Philippines, its birthplace, has died in the cold, crushing apathy of the Filipino people.

—HERMOSO RAGOS JR.
10 Don H. Custodio Village, Las Piñas City.

Who's out to sabotage PCGG?

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE NEWS REport "Somebody out to sabotage PCGG, says Alexado" (INQ, 6/13/06).

Ricardo Alexado's claim is absurd because he and his boss, Camilo Sabio are already doing that. Their successes on curbing a compromise deal that will cover all the cases involving the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies.

In the case of the sour levy funds, the secretary is twice as mean because the courts have already rendered decisions favoring the government and the coconut farmers. In short, Sabio's PCGG, which is directly under the Office of the President, also encourages matters of major cases, like the one under a deal with Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

I urge the PCGG officials to pursue your justice and to adhere to the wishes of its being. They should listen to and imitate the likes of Javier Salonga, Jovencio Mariñas and Haydee Yorac. If not, they should all resign from their post because they only bring shame and injustice to the people they have committed to serve.

I also urge the Sandiganbayan to decide on the cases once and for all so that justice will be duly served to the disillusioned coconut farmers. Immediate resolution of the cases will prevent unscrupulous individuals from devising schemes that will benefit their selfish interests and those of their masters.

—Lita C. Candilasa,
Program officer I, Coconut Industry Reform (CORE), Bicentennial, Inc., #4 Mactan Ext., Diliman, Central, Diliman, Quezon City

Call center industry: the graduates only hope?

I AM REALLY WORried about the study on trade by the Content Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP). Published (Business, INQ, 6/13/06).

In the call center industry all that our graduates can hope to work for is the Philippines!

"CCAP reported that of the 400,000 Filipino college graduates per year, only 100,000 are immediately employable. Of this, 150,000 only 12,000 could pass requirements to work at contact center agents. This is still well below the 60,000 minimum needed by the call center industry."

Besides, who are the target clients of these call centers? Aren't they mostly US citizens who are based overseas? Are the hiring managers themselves really English proficient? What kind of English proficiency is proficiency? What level of English proficiency is necessary for the graduates to be accepted? With these unclear parameters, who is a fair and English-proficiency of college graduates to ignore too much weight or make a requirement. Is there some sense that call center industry? Does this industry really help improve the economy of the country?

—JOAETH BONOL
wwoo@pacer.com.ph

BRAZIL plays in their opening round of Group F at the World Cup football match at Germany.

The beautiful game live on TV for Filipinos

THE WORLD CUP IS UPON US AGAIN. THIS quadrennial single sporting event rivals the Olympics. It is embraced by billions of spectators around the globe.

Conflicts sometimes stop because of this event, businesses come to halt in all of Europe and South America. But it is saddening that we Filipinos have yet to realize that this is the sport nailed for us.

This sport does not require an exceptional height or heavy bursts. I am not saying that it is a sport for midgets. Just one height and build is really stored for this game. We are crazy about basketball and yet we don't even have a national team that can compete with a winning chance in international games like the Olympics. I envy our Asian neighbors for their fierce teams in the ongoing World Cup where I think we can have better.

Fortunately, the media can help in "exposing" our people to what. Will calls "the beautiful game." Unfortunately, some people in the media are denying the masses the opportunity to watch the World Cup live, by showing the games only to an elite where they are played.

In 1994, 1998 and 2002, I watched the World Cup on Sky Cable, specifically on channels 8888 and 8889 and Eurosports and on Thai stations. I hope that Sky Cable, along with all the local channels, will air live the games in the next World Cup in 2010, on that the young people can watch it and develop a love for the beautiful game.

I am calling the attention of all concerned, especially politicians, sports officials and the people behind the National Telecommunications Commission to make the necessary steps to bring about a free, full media coverage of the next World Cup.

—CHICO PHILIP ALBERTO BOROMEO,
pappoarrett@yahoo.com

Is PSALM acting right on YNN's Masinloc bid?

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK OUR HOST TO the chorus of comments made on the TRN bid for the 1320-megawatt power plant. The different views aired in the media have definitely brought to the fore the need for Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) to fast track the privatization of the National Power Corp., this being one of the preconditions for the implementation of open access and retail competition.

The National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform (Nasecore) supports Napocor's privatization as a means to allow competition and arrest the soaring cost of power in the country. However, we do not support any form of unregulated or rather free rein. Right after the first article on this controversy came out, we wrote PSALM, requesting a copy of the bidding guidelines for us to determine whether it indeed violated its own rules as Enron YNN. We are still awaiting its reply.

But what further fuels our concern is the manifestly well-organized campaign to force PSALM to stay away from its liberal position on the issue, have YNN's contract forfeited, and drive away prospective investors, like the Malaysian firm Ranhill Power Berhad. We do not object to this kind of campaign for as long as it is within the premises of the common good, the interest of electricity consumers, in particular.

Ranhill has been mentioned and reported ready to provide the financial package required of TRN's Masinloc bid. From the latter, we have gathered that Ranhill is a multi-billion peso conglomerate that has established itself solidly in the building of a new Malaysian. PSALM may be right in giving TRN-Ranhill until June 30, 2006, the second deadline, to deliver the required cashier bid/payment of $107 million. After all, TRN's bid was the biggest and, as observers say, will be hard to duplicate in another bidding held toward this time.

But this is not to say that our legislators should not conduct their own investigation so the public may be protected, somehow, if indeed there is an anomaly here.

—PETE L. BAUDO, president, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform, Pateros-Taguig City
nasecore2000@yahoo.com

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Across the NATION

Bulusan folk moved; danger zone widened

ARMY TROOPERS HELPED EVACUATE ABOUT 450 residents from the restive Mount Bulusan after the volcano spewed ash and ground in a new explosion over the weekend, officials said Monday.

Scientists said they needed to gather more details and possibly conduct more aerial survey of Bulusan's summit—the second in a week—before they can assess prospects of a major eruption.

Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said Sunday's explosion heralded ash up to two kilometers into the sky, accompanied by a number of mild tremors. No one was hurt and the volcano was reported quiet on Monday, officials said.

Local disaster relief officer Ariel Prado said about 300 residents were ferried by military trucks and government vehicles from villages close to the volcano in Juban and Irosin (map, 39B) between dawn of Monday to evacuation centers about 9 km away.

Mayor Edwin Ramos of nearby Campania town said another 100 villagers living near the slopes of the volcano moved to a high school, but that most of the men stayed behind to guard their homes and farms.

Authorities ordered more than 20,000 people here a permanent evacuation in case of a major explosion, and set out plans for moving even more outside a 6-km radius of the volcano.

Rumor mill rules on Sunday night increased the danger of ash and debris falling from the volcano, prompting the evacuation of residents, who did not resist the move.

Bulusan's recent ash and gas emissions indicated molten rocks called magma may be moving up within the volcano, but it wasn't clear whether it would lead to a major eruption, Solidum said.

Last eruption

Its last major eruption was in 1990.

The Hawaiian-advised local officials in expanding from the radius of the danger zone.

Ernesto Ordoñez, chief of volcano monitoring and eruption prediction division, said with the onset of the rainy season, residents face two grave dangers—ashfall and lahar flow.

Ordoñez issued the advisory in evacuation zone comprising the towns of Juban and Sorsogon.

At the rainy season progresses, the accumulated loose volcanic material, whether old or new, would be eroded, move and mix with rainwater which could form into hazardous lahar and torrential flows. Bobby Lagsubian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; with AP reports)

WOMEN carry their children as evacuation starts around the Bulusan volcano. MIGUEL DE GUZMAN/INQUIRER.NET

SOLDIERS patrol an area near the danger zone around Bulusan volcano during evacuation of residents on order to conduct forced evacuation. MIGUEL DE GUZMAN/INQUIRER.NET

Sorsogon LGUs' fate uncertain in case of major eruption

SORSOGON CITY—WITH NO EXACT DATE for the big explosion, officials of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said would be within a few months. In a few years, local government units (LGUs) here face serious worry in coping with the growing needs of thousands encamped for safeguarding.

Mayor Sylvia Ramos of Castilla said that as of yesterday, with the current evacuees in their farms—which included a calamity fund of P1.4 million, the LGU could only sustain for 15 days' provision and the operation of evacuee management.

But Ramos was optimistic that they could manage to overcome the challenges of the disaster response capabilities of the LGU in Bulusan town with Donsolnon from seven to nine and had to increase according to.

He said they have not yet spent a single centavo from the calamity fund because of the classification that came in earlier.

Ramos said they needed food, medicines and other assistance that are relevant to the needs of the evacuees. He said relatives are last in the list of the town's needs list.

Yesterday, 41 families were taken in here from the village of Magsaysay. The city government had to start spending for their daily food in the evacuation center.

Disaster plans

The Sorsogon provincial volcanic preparedness plan for Bicol, the specific actions and persons responsible in the event of a major eruption.

In Juban town, Mayor Marites Gash-Prago, to remind that they have only P1.2 million and that they would spend not only for the food of the evacuees but also for operational expenses like gasoline.

Gash-Prago said they have already agreed on the details of the specific response plans of the town with two of its villages within the danger zone.

Barangay families are already housed in evacuation centers comprising 302 individuals.

In case of a major eruption, the Juban LGU has to feed at least 2,000 individuals from the two villages in the danger zone town and they need at least P400 per family a day to feed the evacuees brought in school.

She said the town started spending from the calamity fund even the old school edged. She help of the provincial government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the provision of rice Dress.

The Municipal Agriculture Office here has estimated that the 03 to 8-21 ash explosion that damaged some P13 million worth of bananas, coconuts and other crops and that another 15-hectare was damaged as of yesterday.

Gash-Prago said the LGU has no specific disaster response plan for Mt. Bulusan's eruption but prepared a general plan for the town covering only typhoons and floods.

Exaggeration

But Manuel Obordo Jr., former mayor of Juban, Sorsogon, and media and some local officials were actually exaggerating the situation, which is needed to be true and panic among the residents in their town.

"The things that we are experiencing now is not yet life threatening until you watch the television and read the papers it looked as if it was the end-of-the-world situation when in fact it was not," Obordo said.

He said his brothers and sisters in Manila had been calling him the whole day on fear that the worrying about them because of the reports in the media.

Obordo also said that he observed that some people are taking advantage of the volcanic activity to spread the calamity fund and generate illegal contributions.

But Gash-Prago, the political enemies of Obordo, said the solutions intended to swing the calamity fund as much as possible so that it would be added to some town's municipal budget.

She said she was only forced to announce the declaration of calamity, which was passed by the town council on March 22, because of the explosion that happened on June 13.

Gash-Prago said he fund of calamity was originally declared so that the LGU employees could avail themselves of calamity loans for their families.

In Irosin town, the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council here yesterday was also detailing the response plan of their municipality in case the situation worsens. Joan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LIFE goes on as a normal pace for this farmer near the Bulusan volcano.

Nutritional aid for stroke patients, sufferers of Parkinson's disease

There's more to the rehabilitation of stroke patients and the management of Parkinson's disease than the apparent. Often, impaired motor skills affect the patient's ability to swallow, giving rise to a condition known as dysphagia.

One of the ways to help the patient swallow his food is by increasing the thickness of consistency of his food. For years, caregivers used Formiy or gelatin to do this.

Now, Fresenius Kabi, the leader of infusion therapy and clinical nutrition in Europe, has introduced Thick & Easy in the Philippines. Thick & Easy is a starch-based thickener that, when added to food and drinks, results in a dense, cohesive consistency that allows patients to swallow their food.

Simple to use, Thick & Easy blends quickly and smoothly. It stops thickening after one minute, allowing the food to retain a uniform consistency. Food can also be frozen, thawed and re-heated.

With Thick & Easy, food can be prepared in bulk and can be used in standardized menus. It also has a shelf life of three years. This make Thick & Easy time-saving and cost-effective.

Versatility is another key quality of Thick & Easy. It has no taste and can be mixed to achieve a wide range of consistencies—from syrup to pudding-like. It can also be used as a soaking solution for biscuits and breads so dysphagic patients can easily feed themselves and partake in a variety of food. Thick & Easy can also be used with a wide range of hot or cold food and drinks, in addition to creating varied, appealing and appetizing meals.

Best of all, Thick & Easy releases 98% of the available fluids in food which helps prevent dehydration among patients. It also minimizes the risk of the food being misdirected to the lungs which may cause aspiration pneumonia, a potentially fatal condition.

Among those who are also likely to benefit from Thick & Easy are dysphagic patients whose condition results from motor neuron diseases, cerebral palsy, head injuries and surgeries to the head and neck.

It is best to ask a doctor directly if a patient suffers from dysphagia. According to a 1998 study, only 2% of dysphagic patients in long-term care are identified with the condition. Dr. Reynaldo R. Rey-Matias, a physical and rehabilitation specialist from St. Luke's Medical Center, also said that nearly half of all stroke patients suffer from an inability to swallow.

Before the availability of Thick & Easy in the market, dysphagic patients had no choice but to tolerate pureed foods that often appear formless and unappetizing. Pureeing may also result in the separation of water and food pulp, producing a mixture of consistencies. Patients have a hard time controlling food with varied consistencies. Also, a limited range of foods are suitable for conventional pureed meals.

More than being a conventional nutritional aid, Thick & Easy improves the quality of life of both the patient and the caregiver by allowing the patient the dignity of appetizing meals and making it easy for the caregiver to prepare nutritious meals for the consumers.

Thick & Easy is available at selected Mercury Drugstores. For inquiries on the product, call Fresenius Kabi at 8096492 loc.123.

Note: Booklets are available for FREE from Fresenius Kabi to make an appetizing meal for everyone.

Bacolod bishop says Cha-cha a manipulation

BACOLOD CITY—BISCEDO Bishop Vicente Navarro on Sunday said the Roman Catholic Church would continue its information campaign against Charter change as these push has for Cha-cha do not have support of the majority of the people.

Navarro was reacting to the statement of Speaker Jose de Venecia last week that the people's initiative for Charter change had overwhelming support.

"The people know that it is all because of manipulation," said the bishop, referring to De Venecia's claim that there was overwhelming support in the people's initiative based on the numbers of signature gathered.

He said the people's initiative being undertaken to amend Charter was "fraudulent" and intended to prolong the power of "generally corrupt incumbent politicians and officials."

"It is also designed to ensure the nationalistic and patriotic provisions of the Constitution," he said.

Early this month, Navarro led the faithful in an anti-Cha-cha caravan throughout the Diocese of Bacolod in Negros Occidental. He also led a rally at the Bacolod public plaza on June 12 to enjoin the people to oppose Cha-cha.

De Venecia said on Friday that the country needed to amend the Charter to move ahead economically like other nations with parliamentary forms of government.

He said he was optimistic that the country would have a unicameral parliamentary form of government before the end of the year.

De Venecia also said he was 98 percent sure that Charter change would take place this year, leaving a very remote possibility of a Supreme Court negative vote in case the people's initiative was questioned by those opposed to it.

Navarro said lawyers around the country opposed to the people's initiative for Charter change now are preparing to question it before the Supreme Court.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed full support for Charter change, saying the day of reckoning is near for those pushing for constitutional amendments and those opposing it.

Mr. Arroyo's push for the amendments were into full gear following her ordeal with a failed impeachment case that was filed over charges that she stole the 2004 elections and committed fraud to cover it up.

The President also survived attempts to unseat her following the resignation of nine of her Cabinet members who said she was incapable of governing because she was too preoccupied with staying in power. Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Aussie swim champ in RP for ecology protection

BAGUIO CITY—GOLDIE HOGG came to Cordillera to promote awareness on the protection of the environment.

Olympic swimming champion Dana Rooney of Australia visited the tourist town of Sagada, Mt. Province, in support community programs that promote the environment.

Former Mayor Thomas Killip, now presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, said Rooney's visit would surely help generate interest and support for community-based projects of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP). These projects range from reforesting with the native Igorot pine to power generation.

It was the first time that the 23-year-old Rooney visited the Philippines.

According to Killip, Rooney was impressed with the beautiful mountaineering work of the Episcopal Church that she registered willingness to come back to continue her advocacy of protecting the environment.

"Based on our observation, we believe that she will be a formidable ambassador and interest back in her country for whatever causes we have in the Cordillera on environment and even projects on ecotourism," Killip said.

OLYMPIC swimming champion Kiran Rooney of Australia in a cave in Sagada. Rooney is in the Philippines to promote environment protection programs.

St. Jerry Sagsan, pastoral priest of the St. Mary's Church in Sagada, said Rooney would also promote the preservation of the nature system where she gave back to Australia.

"She is also into the preservation of environmental heritage, so it was significant that the country Sagada and some to see the caves, the lakes and the water system of the community," Sagsan said.

Killip said Rooney was tapped for the campaign because she could be a very good ambassador of goodwill. Her visit to other communities in the Philippines could inspire other athletes to follow her lead in promoting issues such as environment, he said.

Aside from Sagada, Rooney also visited the rural communities in Benguet for Jan to Hora, Apayao, and Batanes Tuscan in Boracay, Mt. Province, where the ECP has implemented integrated development projects under its community-based development programs.

Rooney bore into the international scene in 15 when she won the gold in the 100-m backstroke of the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

She was a member of Australia's 4 x 100-m medley relay team that won the gold in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Jhaster Galang, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Experts asked to compute Cordillera water pricing

BAGUIO CITY—ECONOMISTS in the Cordillera have asked local university experts to compute the economic value of water that will be from the mountain down to the lowlands, which will be charged against industries that use the resource, like power and mining.

By putting a price tag on water harnessed by the Cordillera's watersheds, Cordillera economists are hoping to increase the economic advantage of the region now that the government is organizing "super regions," said Leon Dacanay, deputy regional director of the National Economic Development Authority.

Dacanay said the regional development council (RDC) has agreed to apply an independent and scientifically backed valuation of water to frame reasonable fees with investors on behalf of indigenous communities.

He said they have initially asked the University of the Philippines Baguio's Cordillera Studies Center to begin the computation.

"We should undertake economic diplomacy. Everything we do must be revenue generating because since you are empowered, you can do anything," he said.

Dacanay said water that powers hydroelectric dams or irrigates lowland farmlands are industries that will immediately feel the impact of issues price scheme.

He said the RDC has endorsed this request to Malacañang because the government relies on a uniform standard for valuing national resources.

Regional economists, he said, are concerned that these standards have kept the region at a disadvantage.

The Cordillera is composed of provinces that were carved out of the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions to comply with a cease-fire agreement between state rebel group Comando Hukbong and former President Corazon Aquino in 1987.

Dacanay said most of the Cordillera provinces remain among the 50 poorest provinces in the country based on a series of studies comparing growth in a community's income.

A 2005 survey that measures expenditures only finds Mt. Province among the country's 10 poorest provinces, although Ifu. Province and Ilagan are also among the lowest performers in a list that measures income.

Dacanay said part of the culprit could be the region's continued reliance on national government support.

He said putting a price on water could help subsidize the economic development "financial anemia." Howard Calbreas, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Rapist draws death as penalty nears end

BICOLISO CITY—A REGIONAL trial court judge here meted out the death penalty to a 28-year-old man for the rape and killing of a 17-year-old high school honor student despite the impending abolition of the capital punishment law.

Judge Inamaria Dalay, of the Bicolisa RTC, found Guillermo Mangcon Rama Jr. guilty of the special complex crime of rape with homicide and sentenced him to death.

The court said the capital punishment could still be imposed on Rama because the death penalty had not been abolished.

The Senate and the House of Representatives last week approved a bicameral report abolishing the death penalty. President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would sign it into law prior to her visit to the Vatican.

With the vote, Congress has repealed Republic Act No. 7659 or the Death Penalty Law, which was re-instated in 1993, and Republic Act No. 8177, which designates death by lethal injection for those convicted of heinous crimes.

Court records showed that Rama was accused of sexually assaulting the victim on Oct. 23, 2000 at a cogon-cane field in Barangay Cabog in Oak city. The victim was then strangled to death and thrown into a canal.

The victim was an honor student at the Sam-ag National High School-Cabog extension.

After exonerated her school in the Boy Scout Girls Week sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bacolod and was named queen during a Filipino Week celebration in her school.

During the trial, Juan Rubico had testified that he went to the legal counsel who advised Rama to plead guilty because the accused admitted to him that he committed the crime.

He told the court that he explained to Rama the consequences of his admission but the accused said his conscience was bothering him.

Presented in court was an affidavit of the accused wherein he admitted that he brought the girl to the cogon-cane field and hit her until she was unconscious.

In the affidavit, Rama merely couched her private parts before he strangled her to death and threw her body into a canal.

He then went to a river, took a bath, dried himself at a water pump and attended a seminar at the Cabog First Baptist Church.

Sinaunan said lawyers around the country opposed to the people's initiative for Charter change now are preparing to question it before the Supreme Court.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed full support for Charter change, saying the day of reckoning is near for those pushing for constitutional amendments and those opposing it.

Mr. Arroyo's push for the amendments were into full gear following her ordeal with a failed impeachment case that was filed over charges that she stole the 2004 elections and committed fraud to cover it up.

The President also survived attempts to unseat her following the resignation of nine of her Cabinet members who said she was incapable of governing because she was too preoccupied with staying in power. Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

Catanduanes road half complete

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—With less than a year before its scheduled completion, the southern Bicol province Catanduanes Circumferential Road Improvement Project is now 51 percent completed, according to its main contractor, the Hilmo Road and Bridge Corp. The National Economic and Development Authority Regional Project Monitoring Committee visited the province recently to verify the company's report that as of May 25, the construction phase for Contract Package 1 is 51.4 percent complete, or 12.4 percent ahead of schedule. With an original contract cost of P562.8 million, the project's contract duration has been revised from 810 to 900 calendar days, with the revised completion date set May 5, 2005.

Fercar Grecia, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Banahaw reforestation planned

LUCENA CITY—As part of continuing efforts to rehabilitate the mystical Mount Banahaw, Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala filed House Bill No. 1430 that seeks to declare reforestation programs in the mountain, Alcala said the reforestation program will include the planting of endemic fruit-bearing trees in the municipalities of Dolores, Candelaria, Sariaya and Tiaong, all within base of Mt. Banahaw-San Cristobal. The reforestation program at the other side of the mountain facing Luzban town is being initiated by Quezon Rep. Irene Herrera.

Ruth T. Mallen Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sanchez's men pass lie test

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Eight close-in security staffer and two drivers of Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez had passed the polygraph test that the police administered on them, police chief Supt. Eduardo Acidre, regional chief of the Crime Laboratory of the Calabarzon police, said the test on Sanchez's aides, including eight security police officers, revealed that "no deception is indicated on the answers" quite on the polygraphy." Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, head of the special police team investigating the failed assassination on Sanchez, had earlier said that the test was meant to clear the aides of any complicity to the case.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

165th vigilante death

CEBU CITY—A bomb maker was the 165th victim in vigilante-style killings in Cebu City. Benjamin Pagunsan, 42, was busy making a bombshell when one of two men in a motorcycle shot him dead 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday outside Cebu Metro Public Cemetery along Manuel Bilantes Avenue, Jojo Cebrio, the victim's cousin, said the assailant disembarked from the motorcycle and shot Pagunsan. When the victim slumped to the ground, the gunman fired several shots to finish him off.

Jhaster Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Brutal killing

BACOLOD CITY—The nose of a 5-year-old boy who was found dead with a decapitated sexual organ and whose ears were cut with a sharp object in Barangay Tabon-tabon, Talisay, Negros Occidental continues to puzzle the town's police. The body of Jessah Tabaldan, who was reported missing on June 17, was found the following day floating in a river in Sitio Cuatro Brgy. Hall of Barangay Tabon-tabon. The police reported Tabaldan's body bore bruises on Saturday and police also found cuts in the boy's torso.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Misuari release urged

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has urged anew the government to release detained Nur Misuari to accelerate the MNLF leadership and the appeal during the two-day MNLF leadership and peace consultation held at Mindanao Hotel and Restaurant here. More than a hundred MNLF officials and followers attended the consultation. Misuari, MNLF secretary general, said the government must release Misuari before the scheduled OIC-MNLF-RP meeting in July in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Agaton P. Jordo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

FLOOR CHORE
Elton Dorotea, a Dumagat tribe member, learns to write his name on the floor due to lack of seats in the mountain of Sitio Ilmo, Sampaloc, Quezon province.

LULLABY
A man and his child fall asleep on a bench in the Burnham Park in Baguio City on Father's Day.

Benguet execs want to study contract on load limit on NLEx

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET... Provincial officials want to see a copy of the contract between the government and Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) before they decide to act on a request of vegetable truckers for load limit exemption along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

Members of the Benguet Truckers and Traders Association (BTTA) complained to the provincial board recently about huge losses they incurred from the relocation of highland vegetables delivered to Metro Manila and southern provinces caused by MNTC's load limit on cargo weights.

They wanted MNTC officials to consider their plight by increasing the 200-mile load to exempting them from the requirement.

But a Department of Public Works and Highways official in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) said the truckers' request cannot be granted because the load limit is provided for by law and the only Congress, not MNTC, could make the changes.

"The DPWH weight standard is the same standard used at the NLEx," said Wilmer Bunga, chief of the DPWH Cordillera administration.

Bunga was referring to cargo limits being implemented by the DPWH for all kinds of vehicles passing through the newly rehabilitated Balintawak-Rosario 84-km. all-weather road that starts from this capital town to Barangay Abreon in Bugallon town.

MNTC imposes a maximum load limit of 13.5 metric tons per axle on NLEx. A six-wheel truck has two axles; while a 10-wheel truck has three.

MNTC presses overloaded trucks from using the NLEx and violators are slapped a fee equivalent to 25 percent of the motor vehicle user's charge paid by truck owners to the Land Transportation Office.

Augusto Rubrico BTTA liaison officer, told the provincial board that the load limits had created a heavy toll on the volume and income of vegetable deliveries to Manila.

He said that based on the BTTA records, the association's six- and 10-wheel trucks failed to deliver from January to November last year 300.70 million kilograms of vegetables to Metro Manila worth P4.5 billion due to the load limit imposed.

Delmar Carbito
PIA/Northern Luzon Bureau

Firms warned of new highway robbery tactic

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA... Police on Monday advised owners of export companies and cargo forwarding firms to conduct thorough background checks on their drivers as highway robbery syndicates suspected to be increasingly using them in rackets in Central Luzon.

Saturday's blunder in which Taiwanese businessman Chow Feng Kuen lost P1 million worth of export goods shipped inside a container van to Manila operated, according to Chief Insp. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director.

Citing the accounts of two helpers rescued by policemen in Arayat town in Pampanga on Sunday, investigators said that was how the driver, identified as Arthur Sanchez, pulled off the heist.

On the way to Manila from the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales, Sanchez picked Chow (stuck along the San Simon, Pampanga-Tarlac of the North Luzon Expressway (its then instructed one of the helpers to disembark and check the lights.

Two men on board a van operated and ordered Sanchez to drive. Before that, they tied and blindfolded the two helpers on the front seats. The two could not pinpoint the location of the warehouse where the goods were unloaded.

The helpers said the men remained in Barangay San Juan Bano in Arayat.

"We are continuing here," Rafanan said. Sanchez was said to have fled with the suspects, investigators said.

While it was standard procedure to require job applicants to submit clearances from the barangay, police or the National Bureau of Investigation, companies could obtain background information from the neighborhood or police records, Rafanan said.

Companies could also tap the police to conduct background checks on prospective employees, he said.

Saturday's heist was the second highway robbery reported in Central Luzon in less than a week. In February, thieves stole Bridgestone products worth P1 million before leaving their workers in Barangay Tabacan, also in Arayat.

Police had so far recorded six highway robbery cases from this area to June 15.

In the nine incidents in 2005, companies lost at least P6 million worth of goods. Most of the robberies were staged in Tarlac.

Highway robbers have also been tagged in the southern part of Luzon, prompting police in the area to set up checkpoints.

But the checkpoints have reportedly become sources of intimidation for policemen, and law enforcers. Nestle Oredo, PDN Central Luzon Desk

Unpaid bills reaching ₱5.9M cut electricity in offices in Quirino

DIFFUN, QUIRINO... OFFICES OF the provincial government in Cabarroguis town have been without electricity since June 13 after unpaid bills reached more than P5.9 million in unpaid bills.

Nelson Mariano, general manager of the Quirino Electric Cooperative Inc. (Quirelco), said the board of directors decided to cut off the power supply to the provincial offices due to the alleged refusal of provincial officials to settle unpaid bills that the province had accumulated in the past two years.

"We have repeatedly sent notices to them, asking for payment since January but to no avail. The cooperative had to do this because we also needed the money to pay the National Power Corp.," Mariano said.

Provincial officials said the power disconnection had disrupted the transactions of offices in the provincial capitol.

"Documents could not be processed because computers could not be used. Employees were upset because it was difficult for us to do our tasks there offices," an official said.

Others simply opted to stay working in the shade.

Power was also cut off at the provincial government-owned Quirino Polytechnic College.

But Quirelco officials said the Quirino Provincial Hospital in Barangay Poblacion in Cabarroguis town and other medical facilities under the provincial government have been spared.

In a phone interview on Sunday, Gov. Pedro Bacani, who is in Russia for an official trip, said he would settle the problem when he returns to the country this week.

The Quirino governor had earlier refused to reach Vice Gov. Delda Carlo-Cua, the acting governor, for comment. He did not take calls on his mobile phone or reply to text messages on Sunday.

Mariano said the Quirino board members declined to heed a resolution from the provincial board requesting that the power supply be immediately restored in the meantime.

"It was only a request, with no promise of payment, so [the board] took no action. The directors wanted a promise [of payment]," he said.

Mariano said local officials have insisted that the provincial government's obligation would be offset by the unpaid rural property tax that the province would collect from the power cooperative.

Alvin Guzman and Filomeno Hoque Jr., PIA/Northern Luzon Bureau

JOBLESS
Women searching for jobs fill up forms at a job fair in Tabuk, Kalinga. Unemployment in the country has made job fairs popular.

Ex-sugar mill workers learn small trading

DUMALAG, CAPIZ... FORMER SUGAR MILL workers in this town who were displaced when this town's major sugar central shut down almost six years ago would finally be given decent means to livelihood.

When the sugar mill closed down in 2000, more than 500 workers instantly lost their jobs. Of these, 318 came from the town of Dumalag where the Asturias Sugar Central, then owned Silverstone Sugar Central, was located.

Luckily, the displaced sugar mill workers from Dumalag could become productive again, this time no longer as workers but as entrepreneurs, using the skills and knowledge they would acquire from training and livelihood assistance projects initiated by the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda), the office of Rep. Frederick Cuenca of the second district of Capiz and the Dumalag Technical and Technical School (DNTS).

The training began this month at the DNTS in Dumalag town. The training includes courses in bicycle production, hog raising, hot meals cooking, and automotive mechanic and driving.

Tesda public information officer Julia Barquia said that of the displaced sugar mill workers from this town, 113 workers and their families benefited from the joint project.

Cuenca contributed the project funds, while Tesda provided the training staff and venue.

Barquia said the sugar central in Barangay Inzo Nilo of this town started in 1967 as Asturias Sugar Central. It was owned initially by the late Teodoro Ong Jr.

A new owner took over in 1990 and renamed the sugar mill Silverstar Sugar Central. In 2000, however, the mill finally shut down due to financial losses, leaving behind 320 displaced workers, some of whom came from other parts of Capiz and the province of Iloilo. Felipe T. Gallego, PDN Western Visayas Bureau

Ibaloi folk in Benguet pool resources to determine real Baguio size

BAGUIO CITY... IBALOI ELDERS of vegetable-producing town in Benguet have decided to work together to obtain the definitive announcement of Baguio, which was carved out of old Ibaloi towns by the American colonial government in 1909, a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said.

Leilani Lacsamo-Dalmido, NCIP Cordillera director, said Ibaloi folk started conducting consultations to validate the actual size of Baguio so they can settle disputed political boundaries and overlapping property holdings that prevent NCIP from releasing ancestral land titles.

Many of the Ibaloi communities are also entitled to Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs), which cover both farmlands and forest lands serving the tribes, unlike Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALT) that cover only homelands.

Baguio's Barangay Mayors Association was the dominant reservations of Camp John Hay, where descendants of some of the city's old Ibaloi and Kankanaey settlers reside, had been identified by Malacañang as a potential CADT beneficiary.

Large boundary

Gallardo said the Ibaloi unification might help prove that the boundaries was far larger than what the 1909 Baguio charter originally intended.

"What [the Ibaloi] need to determine [is] whether mainly in the ancestral domain of Baguio... but all know historically that Baguio had been carved out of two adjacent towns," she told a press briefing here.

"Moreover, for purposes of fixing the domains of La Trinidad town [where farmers are the country's leading post for raised vegetables], Sota town and Itogon town [where some of the country's other major Ibaloi communities are found] to follow the 40 kilos [who previously lived by the old charter]," she added.

The city government hires some of its urban development plans on 1920 survey documents that describe the city size to be 57 sq km.

Gallardo, however, said a final political boundary that will finally mark out the territories of Baguio and its Benguet neighbors would not automatically alter the size of its ancestral domain application because domains are ancestral according to territorial boundaries described before fully and anthropologically by the tribe's ancestors. Vincent Cabreza, PDN Northern Luzon Bureau

NEWS

RP roads unsafe for kids, study shows

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S STREETS ARE NO PLACE FOR kids.

A new study conducted by Safe Kids Philippines involving around 3,000 children who had suffered injuries showed that 56 percent of them were hurt in road accidents, primarily involving bicycles, motorcycles and tricycles.

Road accidents were also the second leading cause of death among children at 3.86 per 100,000, according to the 2002 Philippine National Injury Survey, the results of which were revealed by the Department of Health yesterday.

"We cannot allow this to happen to the future leaders of our country," said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III during river marking and National Safe Kids Week this week.

"We must protect them not only against deadly diseases but also from injuries caused by accidents," Duque said.

In the study by Safe Kids Philippines, a nongovernment organization, 38.5 percent of the respondents were pedestrians aged six years and older. Sixty-eight percent were male.

"It's really time for us to pay attention to how our children walk in the streets," said Dr. Rubel Concepcion, Safe Kids president.

The findings supported by scientific with another set of findings released by Concepcion that showed that some 90,000 Filipinos were either killed or injured in the streets every year. Of the number, around 15,000 were pedestrians.

The crowded sidewalks were often rendered impassible by too many road works, the lack of pedestrian lanes, sidewalks given to garbage and vendors, and even dogs allowed to roam freely in front of their masters' homes.

The 3,000 cases in the Safe Kids study were patients rushed to hospital emergency rooms in Pasay, Parañaque and Olongapo cities, according to Concepcion.

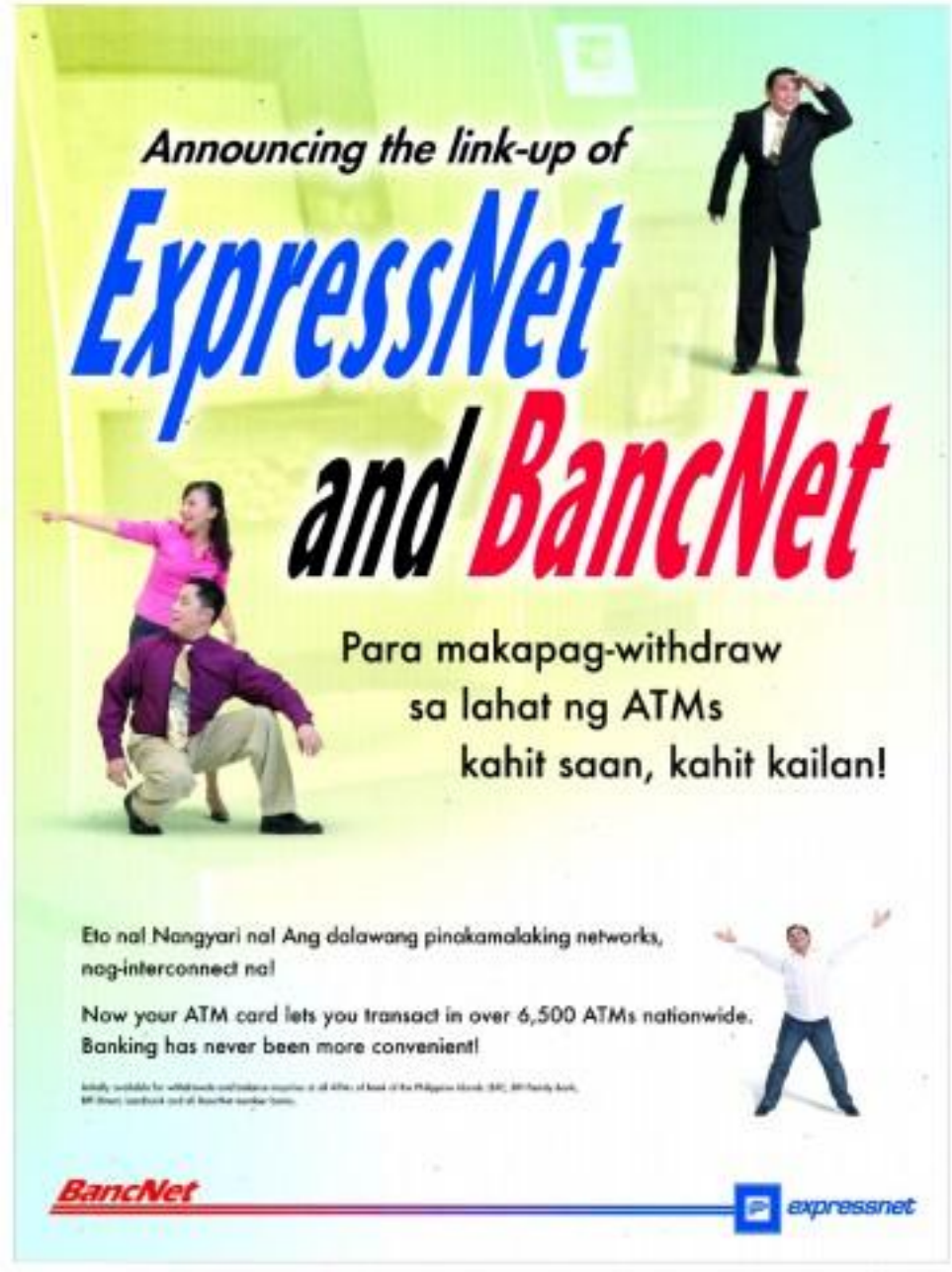
Concepcion said 72 percent of the injuries reported in emergency rooms were "unintentional" and were caused by three factors—road accidents, falls and locomotives.

"Most of the injuries happen to low-income families or those who benefit less in terms of access to hospital care and quality health services," said Dr. Jean Mari Olbe, representative of the World Health Organization in the Philippines.

"Injuries like those caused by road and traffic deaths can be prevented or controlled," Olbe said.

Concepcion said it was not enough that the streets and sidewalks were cleared.

"Equally important are the strict enforcement of road safety rules and the education of the public, particularly the children," he said.



METRO
Gilda Ilarde-S. Olympia
plus

PARAFFI policemen examine the site of the latest bombing incident in the metropolis.

Another blast rocks Makati

Grudge eyed as motive by cops; 4th Metro explosion in 1 month

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

RESIDENTS OF BARANGAY San Antonio, Makati City were just running themselves from sleep when they heard a loud bang coming from the center of St. Paul and Mesquite Streets at around 4:15 a.m. yesterday.

Residents saw two men on board a red motorcycle leaving the area in a hurry, a few seconds before an explosion occurred in front of the three-story Japanese restaurant.

The building serves as the office of Asianconnect Philippines, a diving equipment shop and training center.

Block away

The building is just a block away from Mayor Jejomar Binay's house on Camia Street.

The explosion was caused by an MK2 fragmentation grenade, according to Chief Supt. Wilfredo Cuerva, Southern Police District director.

No one was hurt in the incident and damage to the building was minimal, he added.

"As you can see, it was thrown close to glass panels but it didn't do much damage. It landed on the ground but didn't leave a big crater. This could be just an act of venting fear and intimidation on the part of the owner's enemy," Cuerva said.

Fight

He added, "We are looking at a personal grudge as a motive. When we interviewed the owner, he said he had a fight with a swordsman. I cannot say where yet...but the guard is (on) a glass latter this area with wheel. He cannot have a long-standing engagement. That's the one he is supposed to be responsible for this (blast."

The grenade landed on a plant box before the shop's facade made of glass panels. Police are verifying the identity of the owner of the motorcycle based on the license plate given by witnesses.

Motorcycle owner

"Things will be clearer when we trace the owner of the motorcycle. That's the key in this case," Guerra said.

The blast occurred more than 24 hours after an unidentified person threw a fuel-filled object at the shop, leaving a hole in one of the glass panels. The incident happened at 1:30 a.m. Sunday, said Jose Sola, the building's watchman.

Hours after yesterday's explosion, one of the employees received a call from a man who said, "May granada (last sa loob. Labat kayo sunday. (There is a grenade inside. All of you will be hurt in the explosion.)"

The bomb threat was reported at around 11 a.m. just as media persons were interviewing police officials at the site.

Building cleared

Authorities promptly ordered everyone to clear out as the Makati Special Weapons and Tactics team inspected the building. They found nothing, however.

Based on the count of the Philippine National Police, the blast was the fourth to hit Metro Manila this month and the second in Makati, occurring 13 days after a pillbox was hurled in front of the Burlington-owned Great Pacific Life (Gepalife) building on 6th Ayala Avenue.

Other sites

Blasts also hit a police satellite base in Philcoa, Quezon City on June 11, and a SWAT van inside Camp Bagong Diwa on June 13.

The group "Gang Bayan sa Kawal" has claimed responsibility for the last three explosions.

Fire hits telecoms cell site in Caloocan

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FIRE HIT THE CELL SITE OF A telecommunications company in Caloocan City on Sunday night, destroying millions of pesos worth of equipment.

Based on the report filed by Chief Insp. Jose Sidereum, head of the city's investigation unit, the fire broke out at around 8 p.m. at the tower cell site in Sitio(na) Ilaya, Ugong Village, Barangay 172.

Valencia said there were approximately 15 units and another group of equipment worth P1 million were destroyed in the blazing blaze which was finally put out at 7 p.m.

"They (three employees) claimed that it was due to a power interruption but since investigators from the Bureau of Fire are still investigating the incident," the police official said in his report.

According to Valencia, no employee of the company identified as Marvin Javier said that the fire was caused by a power outage.

What's Inside

- Pasig City to spend P1 million for repair of 21 government buildings /A10
- NBI agents seize fake slimming pills in Quezon City /A10
- UN study says Manila Bay worth P8 billion /A19

Now is the best time to solve NPA problem

PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY's orders to the Armed Forces to end the communist insurgency in two years is not doable.

The military wants the insurgency to continue so it can justify its existence and its huge budget.

It's easy for the government to bring back Jacinta Ona, chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to the Philippines to face murder charges.

The government can send the help of the United States and other countries that are fighting terrorism.

Since the United States considers the New People's Army (NPA), the CPP's military arm, a terrorist group, then Washington can pressure the government of the Netherlands to send Jacinta back to the Philippines.

* * *

The United States is doing everything to fight terrorism.

Now is the best time for the government to fight the NPA because it will have the complete support of the United States.

Incidentally, it's the second time for the NPA.

* * *

We have seen how the terrorists Dhoze Sand Abu Sayyaf is getting decimated by the day through the help of the United States.

ON TARGET
Manuel Ruiz

Without US financial and arms military support, do you think the Abu Sayyaf problem would have been licked?

If the United States gets into the anticommunist insurgency campaign, expect the NPA problem to be solved in no time.

* * *

The military solution is just a small part of the equation in licking the problem.

The big part of the solution is addressing the problem of poverty and massive unemployment, the price by those in power.

* * *

So long as many Filipinos don't have jobs, and so long as there are divisive soldiers and policemen and corrupt judges, the midst of the NPA will continue to exist.

* * *

The decision of the Supreme Court to stop the patrolling unit of Hacienda Luisita to its farmer-workers and workers showed that the high court favors the rich over the poor.

The Presidential Agrarian Reform Council had ordered the vast estate owned by the family of former President Benigno Aquino parceled out after the Hacienda Luisita management failed to distribute stock certificates to tenant-farmers and workers.

The high court probably doesn't know it, but it's driving thousands of Luisita farmers and workers into the arms of the New People's Army. This is in contrast to the hundreds or thousands of Manila folks who sympathize with Luisita farmers and workers.

* * *

The Cojuangcos, who own Luisita, are moving heaven and earth to prevent the patrolling unit of from hostilities to farmers and workers.

You can't blame them. If they lose Hacienda Luisita they become poor.

They want to retain their wealth at the expense of the poor farmers.

* * *

If you want to read my technical vs. the pursuer who's behind the poison letters and white paper about me and our brothers Bimbo, Buddy and Bong, don't have to read my columns. Forget it, Bimbo, Buddy, Bong, don't have to read my columns. Forget it, Bimbo, Buddy, Bong, don't have to read my columns. Forget it, Bimbo, Buddy,

CAUTIOUS Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein listens as the prosecution counsel giving his closing arguments in Baghdad, June 19. —AP

Vatican officials in Beijing for talks on normalizing ties

HONG KONG—OFFICIAL OFFICIALS HAVE visited Beijing for closed-door talks on normalizing ties despite tension over the installation of two bishops in China without Rome's approval, the church's top developer in Hong Kong said on Monday.

"The talks are about ... the whole relationship between the Holy See and Chinese government, about the ordination of bishops," Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun said.

"It's a big issue and should not be so cursorily interpreted in the less patronized pockets," Zen told Reuters in an interview.

He would not say if the envoys had already left Beijing, and declined to give details about the talks.

Beijing has had no diplomatic relations with the Vatican since 1951, two years after the Communist Party took power.

It only allows Catholics to worship in state-backed churches that recognize the Pope as a spiritual figurehead but not as official head of the Catholic Church.

The Vatican estimates that about 8 million Chinese Catholics worship in "underground churches" not recognized by the government, compared with some 5 million who belong to the state-controlled church.

In 2006, China had 120 bishops, 74 in the state-backed churches, according to the Holy Spirit Study Center in Hong Kong, which monitors the Chinese church.

Tension between Beijing and the Vatican flared in May after the state-backed church installed new bishops without papal blessing. Pope Benedict called the installations "a grave violation of religious freedom," and Zen has said the Vatican should break off dialogue with China if there are successors.

Zen told the Ponti Catholic daily La Croix last month that the Church was not in a weak negotiating position because China wanted to reestablish diplomatic relations with the Vatican to isolate Taiwan and to strengthen its religious policy at home.

"I hope by now, even the government knows that it was too much," he told Reuters, referring to the recent bishop installations.

Zen said the path to normalization would not be easy, but the biggest obstacle was Beijing's mistrust of the church. Reuters

Prosecution to rest case against Saddam

BAGHDAD—THE TRIAL OF SADdam Hussein and seven other defendants on charges of crimes against humanity resumed Monday after the prosecution set to rest its case against the ousted Iraqi leader.

"Tomorrow's session, we will listen to the statements of the prosecution and also hear the lawyers of the victims," chief judge Rauf Abdel Rahman said at the start of the session.

"In the next session (on July 18), we will have the defense witnesses," he added, warning defendants and their lawyers not to "leave out the proceedings."

Monday's hearing was attended by all eight defendants, but without some of their attorneys.

Saddam and the seven others on accused of killing 148 Shiite civilians from the town of Dujail north of Baghdad after the then president escaped an assassination attempt there in 1982.

In previous sessions, Abdel Rahman ordered defense witnesses to speed up their testimony and often pulled up the defense attorneys.

The judge signaled an end to the defense phase on June 13 even though defense lawyers had asked for more time to prepare their case.

"I want to tell the defense attorneys that we are not going to listen to their endless rhetoric," the judge said. "The session is to present their witnesses. They have to choose one of the options—either doctors or witnesses."

Abdel Rahman also barred Saddam's half-brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, the former head of the secret police, from attending the June 13 hearing after he was removed from the court by the previous judge.

The hearing was a repeat appearance by Saddam's cohorts following Saddam on Thursday, and the former Iraqi guards who testified for the defense.

The Iraqi guards testified about the attempt on Saddam's life in Dujail. The murder bid was followed by a wave of arrests, interrogations and ultimately the execution of 148 Shiites from the town.

Saddam opened the session by reiterating his stance from the days of exclusive but Saddam, before his security team from entering the his face of letting accused bystanders, the bodyguards said.

"The president said there could be someone innocent in this orchestra who could be hit by one thing, so stop shooting," one testified.

The hearing also featured a lengthy speech by defendant Taha Yassin Ramadan, a former vice president.

Ramadan told that a key item of evidence against him, a taped conversation in which he is told to convene a the orchestra in Dujail, was faked, prompting prosecutors to submit four new documents supporting the that go against him.

Three of the documents were letters linking Ramadan to the confiscation of land in Dujail, while the fourth was an order from Saddam to confiscate land without offering compensation to its owners.

The lawyer for one of the Iraqi victims told the trial Monday: "The victims have not done anything against the state." The newly elected sovereignty of Iraq and the decision taken by the Iraqi court was illegal and violated the law.

The court passed the death sentence on the victims in just 10 days, which itself shows how unlawful the court was. We demand maximum punishment for the defendants." AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq dumped millions of barrels of oil

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraqi officials say Baghdad is desperate even to dispose of millions of tons of its oil refinery byproduct called "black oil," the government pumped it into wastewater canals and leaky open pits near to the Tigris River and left it to fry. The resulting huge black heaps—at the heartland of Iraq's southern Basra oil industry—are threatening the rare and groundwater in the region, which is dotted with villages and cross-crossed by frequent cheap farmers. The region also contains Iraq's great northern reserves of Kirkuk. The conflicting pictures of trouble can not be hit on all sides, and it is impossible to independently assess the claims. But Basra's town of power, for long an economic engine, who has evoked the damaging pictures that it is a land of black encrusted of oil cans dead animals and large standing pools of oil all stinking to the intended locations oil fires. The engineer, Ayad Younis, said the stands of smoke "were not heavy that they choke other breathing and visibility in the area and represent a serious environmental danger." AFP

Pro-whaling nations win first vote

VIANA DO CASTELO, Portugal—Pro-whaling nations in an anti-whaling move against the moratorium on commercial hunting Tuesday, winning their first public victory of attempts to have decades of global bans. The Japan-led pro-whaling block won it's simple majority after forcing a resolution which founded the ban "no longer necessary" through the International Whaling Commission (IWC) annual meeting with a vote that was a close margin. Though the non-binding resolution does not overturn the 20-year-old ban that has helped whale populations recover, environmentalists called it a "tragic" and first step in a new debate by the decades-long anti-whaling campaign. "This is the most serious debate in the conservation issues we have suffered at the IWC," New Zealand's Environment Minister Chris Carter said. The vote was received a major victory for pro-whaling nations led by Japan, who used to be a critic IWC body from years of opposition and bans on commercial whaling already stocks for hunting. The moratorium, enforced since 1986, 108 votes for, seven against, with a 75-percent super majority to be overturned. AFP

E. Timor rebel will only hand arms to Gusmao

DILI, East Timor—A rebel leader in East Timor Monday refused to surrender his group to the government's authorities, saying he would only hand over the weapons in person to President Xanana Gusmao. Vicente da Conceicao, who has reportedly alleged that Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri paid his group of ex-fighters to fight for his cause in the very talented in the Fretilin party leader last month, battle-axe away from him. Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta [illegible] a reminder village outside Dili, 30 km west of Dili, to join an Gusmao to follow Gusmao's order and hand his account of violence [illegible] peacefully, traditional ceremony in use to get lord and father handover. Ramos-Horta asked that the Conceicao follow the example of Rla, Alfredo Reinado, the leader of 600 rebel soldiers who began going up arms last February. "East Timor doesn't need weapons. We need food, medicines. We don't need weapons," the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who was shot gunshot by Reinado, [illegible] AFP

US Episcopal Church elects first woman chief

CHICAGO—THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH said Sunday it had elected its first woman presiding bishop, a breakthrough after years of resistance to a church already riven by the election of a gay bishop.

Katharine Jefferts Schori, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Nevada, was elected to serve as the US Anglican church's chief pastor and primate at its general convention in Columbus, Ohio, after five ballots weighed across candidates for the post.

"I am awed and honored and deeply privileged to be elected," Jefferts Schori said. "May the great and greatly blessed church of ours be the vehicle and leader in building the reign of God in our time."

Outgoing Presiding Bishop and Primate Frank Griswold said in a statement after the vote that "the decision today is the fruit of the witness and ministry of women bishops, priests and deacons in the life of our church."

"Bishop Jefferts Schori is a person gifted in many heart and spirit, and I am fully confident that the Church and the Communion will be blessed by her ministry in the years ahead," Griswold said in the statement posted on the church's website.

School, 52, has a doctorate in oceanography and has worked with the US National Oceanic Atmospheric service. She is married to a professor of topology and has one daughter who is an officer in the US Air Force, according to a biography.

School's vote signals a victory for women in the 2.3 million-member Episcopal Church, the US branch of the Anglican Union. Most of the branch's 77 Anglican Union around the world have resisted electing women bishops. AFP

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Olaroso

Japan warns of 'severe action' over Nokor launch

TOKYO—JAPAN WARNED MONday it would join the United States in taking "severe action" if North Korea launched a long-range missile in defiance of growing international appeals.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi issued the fresh warning as a US newspaper report said that Pyongyang was close to giving ahead with a new missile test.

North Korea, which declared last year it had nuclear weapons and is boycotting international talks on its nuclear programs, test-fired a missile over Japan into the Pacific Ocean in 1998 without prior warning.

"Until hope North Korea will not do so. But if they don't listen to us, if they fire a missile, Japan will have to take severe action in discussion with the United States," Koizumi said at a press conference.

He did not specify what the action would be, but said that North Korea had been warned against a launch.

"I think it would be better as prime minister not to say what actions to take at this stage," Koizumi said.

While cooperating with the United States and South Korea, Japan has urged the North in many ways not to launch a missile and to act to prevent a Taepodong or any missile from being fired."

US officials have conducted from satellite images that the commander crane had finished fitting a Taepodong-2 missile, suggesting it was set to proceed with a test, the New York Times reported.

Japanese officials are studying information "around the clock" on a possible launch of the Taepodong-2, which has a range of 3,500 to 6,000 kilometers (2,200 to 3,750 miles), said defense chief Fukushiro Nukaga.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe, the government spokesperson, said that the country's measures would be economic sanctions stopping the flow of Japanese money into the impoverished dictatorship.

"If North Korea (un) launches a missile, naturally Japan and the United States will take stern measures," she said. "There are no interests North Korea will achieve by launching a missile."

North Korean media on Monday reproclaimed a missile launch but did not comment on it directly according to Tokyo-based Kyodo news, which monitors media in the communist state.

State-radio quoted Rodong newspaper as saying that the United States was accusing North Korea of preparing a test launch and "fabricating information and speculations which cannot prove to be true," Kyodo news said. AFP

KOIZUMI

Global military spending hits $1.12T, says report

STOCKHOLM—US SPENDING in Iraq and Afghanistan is expected to help push global military expenditure further up in 2006 after hitting $1.12 trillion a year earlier, a research body said.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said in its latest yearbook that the United States was behind 48 percent of total world arms spending in 2005 and had accounted for most of the year's 3.5 percent overall gain.

Several states, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, have seen a sharp rise in oil prices to boost their military spending. The biggest increase worldwide was in the unforseen state of Georgia, which surged by more than 160 percent to $1.46 million.

"Looking ahead, increasing trends in world military expenditure show little sign of abating in the near future," Sipri Yearbook project manager Ian Anthony said.

The United States, France and the United Kingdom were all involved in costly overseas operations while China was carrying out a modernization of its People's Liberation Army.

"In these circumstances, there is nothing likelihood that the current upward trend in world military spending will be sustained in 2006," Sipri added.

Britain, France, Japan and China accounted for 4 to 5 percent each of world arms spending, which overall equaled 3.5 percent of world gross domestic product, or $1.75 per capita.

A preview of conservations of spending continued in 2005, it added, as 15 countries with the largest spending accounted for 84 percent of the world total.

The global rise in cars started ale' prices helped some countries spend more on weapons, particularly Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Saudi Arabia.

China and India also increased spending, the institute said.

"In absolute terms, their newest spending is only a fraction of the USA's. Their increases are largely commensurate with their economic growth," it added. Reuters

WATERLOO REENACTED
Some 500 actors take part June 18 in a remake of the Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon Bonaparte's last stand, fought on June 18, 1815 at Waterloo. AFP

Taliban kill 32 in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—Taliban militants killed 32 soldiers and members of an influential lawmaker in southern Afghanistan and 19 others were missing, the member of parliament told AFP on Monday.

AFP 2nd Mohammad Khan said 27 of the men had been killed in Arhmand province when they had gone to the site of an earlier attack in which five others were shot dead.

"Yesterday morning, in Taliban attacks, 32 of my relatives and friends were killed," said Khan, the influential Asmar intelligence chief of the province.

"Ten relatives of mine are still missing and four are wounded," he said.

The deputy provincial governor, Mullah Amir Akhund, confirmed the attack and the number of casualties.

One of the five men killed in the earlier ambush was a brother of Khan named Jana Gul, a former governor of Helmand province.

The group had been returning from a visit to Chenk district in neighboring Kandahar province. "Taliban attacked their vehicle and killed them," he said. "I am not sure how many other people." Khan said. AFP

US illegals blend into workforce

MINNEAPOLIS—IN CONTRAST TO THE typical image of an illegal immigrant—paid in cash, working under the table for small scale labor contractors or a California farm or a suburban construction site—a majority now work for multi-billion companies, on fly-by-night operations, and are hired and paid like any other American worker.

More than half of the estimated 7 million immigrants toiling illegally in the United States get a regular paycheck, reports say. At the end of the year they receive a W-2 form. Come April 15, many file income tax returns using special ID numbers issued by the Internal Revenue Service so foreigners can pay taxes. Some even get a refund check in the mail.

And they are now present in low-skilled jobs across the country. In total, they account for an estimated one in 20 workers in the United States.

Acquiring the necessary documentation to work is a routine transaction these days. In Minneapolis, one only has to step around for a few minutes in a Hmong parking lot known to immigrants, and a young Guatemalan with a Mayan Popoli hat will approach on his bike and quietly offer to help.

The documents themselves cost $110. Within one hour, the Guatemalan is cycling back into the parking lot to make the drop of the ID package. It includes a green card with the customer's photo and somebody's fingerprint, along with a Social Security card, for which the numbers were plucked out of thin air.

It is remarkably easy for illegal immigrants to get a regular, above-board job.

The law requires employers to make workers fill out I-9 "employment eligibility" forms and provide documents to prove they are legally entitled to work.

But the employers are not expected to discern if workers try to fake the real thing. To work, illegal immigrants don't need to come up with facsimiles of ID found only something that looks plausible.

Companies have little to fear. Only 46 people were convicted in 2006 for hiring illegal immigrants, the annual number has been roughly the same for the last decade. NYT

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SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Ogilvy takes cake as 'Lefty' gives it away

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK —Geoff Ogilvy watched the drama unfold on the 18th hole at the US Open while sitting in the scorer's hut, pondering his fate with almost every shot.

The Australian figured he was destined to finish behind Phil Mickelson, who stepped to the 18th tee on Sunday needing only a par 4 to win. Ogilvy could almost swallow the huge crowd at Winged Foot cheering in delight for the obvious favorite.

This is what Ogilvy remembers thinking would happen:

"He'll hit the green, make par, make New York happy."

This is what did happen:

Mickelson made a double bogey, and Ogilvy became champion of the 104th US Open.

"I think I was the beneficiary of a little bit of charity," he said. "I think I got a bit lucky."

At this end, perhaps. But give Ogilvy credit for getting in position to win it. He chipped in on 17 for par and made a 4-foot putt on 18 for another par. On this day, par for the course was enough to win the tournament.

Ogilvy will wear here his name engraved on a trophy which already has the names of golf greats Bob Jones, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Ten years from now, when people think about this US Open, it's unlikely they'll talk about Ogilvy's 18-foot chip-in 17 or his recovery from a tree after that rolled back off the green on 16. They'll talk about Mickelson and Colin Montgomerie giving it away with double bogeys on the last hole.

Ogilvy knows this. Even his words boom the pride in becoming the first Australian to win a major in 11 years, and the first Aussie to win the US Open since David Graham in 1981.

For someone who grew up idolizing Greg Norman, winning the US Open is quite a big deal.

"It wasn't for Greg, nor might not have an appreciation for how big these things really are," the 28-year-old Ogilvy said.

This time, he came up with a save to a lifetime chip on 17, then saw the breaks go his way.

Stuck in the rough on 17, Ogilvy was considering what to do when his caddie whispered, "Why don't you just chip it in?"

Ogilvy did just that.

Auduron hit the US Open champion.

The three who cheered all week for Mickelson probably would have settled for sitting contemplated with his first major, but Ogilvy? He had played in only two US Opens, missing the cut in 2000 and tying for 28th last year at Pinehurst. He seemed about as likely to win this tournament as he was to sit down with President Bush at a White House dinner.

What is what happened recently.

Bush, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rupert Murdoch and John Henderson were among those who sat with Ogilvy, a fitness relative of Sir Angus Ogilvy, a member of Britain's Royal family. AP

A HIT (LUCKY) US Open winner Geoff Ogilvy holds the trophy

'I had it in my grasp and I just let it go'

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK—THOUGH HOT the US Open, Phil Mickelson insisted it wasn't almost winning a third straight major title. It was just about winning this one—and that's why losing hurt so much.

"As a kid I dreamt of winning this tournament," he said. "I came on here and sneaked hard all four days, haven't made a double-bogey all week and then double-bogeyed the last hole.

"Years at bogey would have gotten me into a playoff. I just can't believe I did that."

Never

MICKELSON ponders what could have been after missing his chip for bogey on the 18th.

Mickelson said. "This one is pretty disappointing." AFP

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RP lady pugs nail 2 golds

BANGKOK—TWO-TIME ASIAN BOXING CHAMPION Mitchel Martinez ruled the lightweight class at the Philippines' easy with two gold and one silver medals in the 3rd Women International Boxing Championships recently.

Martinez, a member of the Philippine Medical Police, scored a RSC-O (referee stopped contest, unanimous) victory over Chinese Taipei's Chien-Hsin Tan.

Featherweight Arnie Alfonso beat India's R. Devi, 19-12 in a one-sided final.

Alice Ann Aparri fought gallantly but lost to world champion MC Mary-ann of India, 21-21, in the light-flyweight finals.

With the medal tally, the Filipinas salvaged second place in the 15-nation tournament.

No clear pick as NCAA gets going Saturday

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ONLY THREE MANNERS FROM LAST YEAR'S champion squad will return when the Letran Knights open defense of their NCAA basketball crown against the St. Benilde Blazers this Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Roger Bautista, Jeanne Alvin and Dennis Daa are back for the Knights, who lost to graduation stalwarts John Paul Abante, Jonathan Abbas, Mark Andaya, Frederick Bridgers, Jonathan Flores and Dilly Perales.

"We will have a new team and the changes may affect our chances of retaining the title but our will to win is stronger than ever and that's what is important for us," said Letran assistant coach Mel Alas, brother of head coach Louie, during yesterday's NCAA press conference at the SLU Building in Quezon City.

The rest of the main items held will also see action to place in the 82nd season after the Letran-St. Benilde opener at 2 p.m.

The league has two new coaches—Arts' legend Jerry Codiñera and Raymond Mercado of JRC.

Sergueña, a former member of the Talk 'N Text coaching staff, takes over from Glen Capacio.

The Henry Sy-owned team was the NCAA's cream 20 years ago with a lineup starring the legendary Philip "Cesar" Cezar himself. They have only two victories to show in 14 games last season.

Raymond Mercado will take the place of his father, Tim, who has retired.

The Stags will be without prolific scorer Leo Najorda, who is now with the pro league.

The Blazers will count on Rhildan Arguelles-Alabanza, Jingle Divinagracia and Gerald Christopher Leong to their bid to take the title they last won in 2001 when Arnulfo Valdez was coach and still around.

Hey Band will have his full year turnaround. San Beda which is hoping to improve last year's 4-10 record.

University of Perpetual Help System Dalta will rely on a mix of veterans Pete Simeon, Madyson Joe and Jessel Bacho and fresh talents Jaypee Aviso and Michael Johnson to fill the void.

Mapua now gets its hopes on PBL stalwart Antonio Gonzales and last year's rookie of the year Kelvin dela Pena.

The Dolphins ended last year's season with a 10-6 slate behind a league led by Gabby Espinas, the league's first Rookie-MVP awardee in 2004. He will still be around as are Jason Castro, Lincoln Amparado, Boss Bolgo and Dan Estrella.

Tugade lording it over for Bulls

AdU grabs 2nd as SSC falls

HAVING THE GAME HE COMING OFF THE bench makes little difference for Lardie Tugade.

The 20-year-old shooting guard is heading all final scorers despite coming off the bench of late. He also nose-flats 20 points a game the past week to power the Bulls past Saranggay Diaries (six things and then to a 3-0 lead over the Tripped in their Great Mountain PBA Philippine Cup basketball series.

Tugade, who started in only nine of 22 games, helped the Bulls gain a 3-0 record from June 12-16 to earn Player of the Week honors.

"He's really a big asset to the team because he can create match-up problems," said third-half coach Bing Gaston of Tugade, who is also the tournament's leading three-point shooter with a 17 of 36 (36.7 percent) clip.

Aside from Tugade's offense, however, there are other sides to the former National U Bulldogs's game that are all-done contact.

"The rest also defended, and proof of that is no other are him so a stopper," Gaston added. "He has also learned when to give up the ball."

While helping defend the likes of Mark Macapagal, Allan Salvaguera and Sunday Salvacion in their quarterfinal duel with Gaudiez, Tugade's shooting touch is never wanting.

After scattering 3-9 points in a 2 DUTY win last Wednesday, the Aberatores, the position-setter came up with a 23 point, eight-rebound and two-assist performance in a 120-99 do-or-die win over the Kings last Friday.

Playing a one-to-one night game, the 6-foot-1 gunner again had 23 points in 25 minutes as the Bulls scored an 89-78 win over San Miguel in the start of their semi-last Sunday. Mismeg C. Castillo

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	10	1
Adamson	8	4
U. Sebastian	6	5
UP	6	7
ADMU	6	7
FEU	4	8

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
10 a.m. — Ateneo vs. De La Salle
2 p.m. — Adamson vs. San Sebastian

ADAMSON IN SOUTH (TO STILL HOPE) after outlasting Far Eastern, even as Lyceum secured a major upset over Ateneo, 74-73, in the finale on the Jhaleys's Vi Cougar semifinals at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Lady Falcons outlasted the job of a first on loss against the girls by Lady Tamaraws before coming back for a 22-20, 20-13, 20-13, 20-24, 20-win, to grab second with an 8-4 record behind only Shaker La Salle.

Cherry Rose Bacaningay ordained 20 kills to finish with 32 points as Adamson overtook erstwhile second-place San Sebastian, which bowed to site-ist Lyceum, 6-25, 25-20, 16-30, 25-20, 15-11.

Ma. Theresa Gonzaga had 21 points for Lady Stags (8-5) before clinching the second title under the Red-ist eight-incumbent, but they'll get a second chance to reassess against Adamson.

"We will get to know which team deserves to be in the finals," said Adamson coach Sulet Jose.

San Sebastian takes on FEU in its last semifinal assignment, while Adamson battles La Salle and then Lyceum. Marc Anthony Reyes

DEBUTANT'S REQUEST

Welcoat wants to keep big men

By Jaderine W. Pape

WELCOAT PAINTSPLASHES TOOLSHOPPE THREE-Dig, next month for attainment roster when it debuts in the storied Philippine Basketball Association season that starts in October.

Jay-E. Reyes, Jaspher Celestio and Jaspher Bruno make up the team's priority list, according to Welcoat coach Leo Austria.

"We want Jaspher a complete big man if we don't have a bona fide big," said Austria. "We want them to be the nucleus of the team."

The three form the imposing frontcourt of Bam or Shine, which finished third in the recent Unity Cup, its farewell tournament in the Philippine Basketball League.

Whether Jaspher will have to go unsuited one unchained glitch to fulfill its wish.

After supporting the sale of the Shell franchise to Welcoat, the PBA board allowed the new member to choose three amateur players based on its PBA Draft-pick of Dec. 31, 2005.

Coach, like to have Columbian Autos Metrobanks, only entered up for Bam or Shine last March for the Unity Cup, which was eventually won by Purefoods Corned Beef.

"Yes, [Jaspher] might have been with [the Bam chain] before Dec. 31," argued Austria. "It's technically we'll be discussing with the PBA. Maybe in a few weeks, we'll know who we can choose."

Reyes led the league in blocks at 3.14 bpg, while the 6-foot-7 Celestio averaged a double-double 13 boards. Celestio, a former La Salle standout, was among Austria's coach preferences.

After choosing three players, Welcoat can fill its rosters from a dispersal draft to be scheduled by the PBA Commissioner's Office later.

The current nine-team set-only "protect" 10 players in their active roster, giving Welcoat a huge pool to choose from.

Welcoat will also have the 10th pick overall in the Rookie Draft this August before picking first in the second round.

"We'll only know the composition of the team after the draft and the tryouts," said Austria. "We're hoping to get a competitive lineup."

Welcoat is moving to the 90s after winning an PBL championships in 12 Finals appearances. The PBL recently paid tribute to the franchise for its outstanding 16-year stint in the league.

MISSED SHOT: Lardy Tugade dives through the Gladiators defense. [illegible]

Pacquiao, Roach due today from Los Angeles

PACQUIAO

WORLD BOXING BANtamweight champion Manny Pacquiao and trainer Freddie Roach are due to arrive in Manila this morning and immediately huddle about their next fight.

Pacquiao, who is starring with members of his homogeneous group, is expected to report to the gym in the afternoon to resume his workout and sparring sessions.

In his last training session in Los Angeles, where he sparred 12 rounds, the Filipino ring icon weighed down to the 130-lb regulation limit and appeared relaxed and in a good mood.

"All we need to do is have the game plan we studied to counter the persistent strength, talent and skills of Oscar Larios," said Roach in an interview with the Philboxing.com recently.

"The format of Manny's training is geared for him to go only 12 rounds with Larios. If we get a knockout before that, then it is blessing we will gladly accept."

Judging from the relaxed manner he handled everything, including the media interviews, Manny Pacquiao, by all indications, is primed and ready to rumble," said the Los Angeles-based kit Roach in the aftermath of the fighter's workout.

Pacquiao, responding to his business associates this "Wales" Salud, will do his final workout at the Rizal Coliseum, which is devoted a bigger arena to hold his training sessions.

Also coming from camp with Pacquiao are Rolando Navarrete, Glenn Dicidit Fidel, Nick Glass and Kirth Ouedraos. Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez, and bosses Gerry Peñalosa and Hiced Ocampillo. Aaliyah L. Laguardia, contributor

Ozamiz cagers draw first blood in NBC semis

VALENCIA CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION DUMAGUETE outscrambled Mahawin Golden Harvest, 85-80, Tuesday night to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three semifinal series in the northern division of the 2006 Governor Brando-NBC national basketball championship at this city's packed gym.

Reuben Rocco hit an undefended rush in the dying seconds to give Mayor Reynaldo Parajinog's cagers the all-important win.

After the Valencia squad of Mayor Jose Galeria Jr. rushed ahead, 84-83, Rocco eluded his guard to provide the difference in the close contest.

Quintet game for the clincher today when it faces Valencia champion at the same court.

Rocco dished out another sparkling all-around performance with 24 points on eight of 12 shooting, 14 rebounds, five assists, one steal and one block.

Billy Ramirez also came up with a double-double finish (22 points and 10 rebounds) to back up Rocco in the Dumaguete offensive. [illegible] Jason Flores's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Biggest Foods, Firefly Lightings, Mellow and Peter Channel.

"Marchan (Rocco) hauled an easy strengths," said Galeria after local coach Albert Cobio. "But we have to respect Dumaguete as Batch One entrenched."

Dumaguete
GAME SB—Rocco 24, Ramirez 22, Cheek 15, Barquin 10, Jaraga 5, Langco 5, Guerrero 3, Lopera 2, Sabino 0, Alberto 0, Lhuang 0, Langco 0, Lopera.

VALENCIA SB—Cobio 28, Lhui 14, Mendez 12, Bacani 8, Aquino 6, Lopez 4, Lopez 4, Cabral 4, Abrera 4, [illegible] 2, Lopez 2, Jaraga 0, Barquin 0, Salgueiro 0.

Quarters: 30-28, 52-48, 69-68, 85-80

Xavier routs Merrengues, grabs Adidas Futsal lead

SCORING ALMOST AT WILL AT every opportunity, Xavier Ateneo(FC) whitewashed Los Merengues, 12-0, over the weekend to extend the lead in the country's premier futsal league to a Union Football Club–defeat with a 14-3 rout of Marina Officers at the resumption of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the PSNC Gym at La Salle Green Hills.

And by the time Xavier's fourteenth top goals, the Kinder boosters completely outplayed Los Merengues for their second victory in as many starts in the three-month long futsal event sponsored by the sports brand held in association with the National Capital Region Football Association.

Antonio Gaudio, who scored his first goal in the 18th minute, added five more in the match, while Teo Ocampo scored two of his own to help Chino, FC in its first win in the men's second division (Group B).

Meanwhile, Philippine Air Force downed Pasargad, 8-3, to also clinch title the lead in the first division.

Ruben Dionisio, Emilio Calingasan and Ian Christian Ramos [illegible] each hit the division, while Mian Bolaletcio also scored two goals as Pasargad took to second defeat.

In other first division matches, the Sonsonas Medical Squad defeated, 4-3, for its first win; Reyes FC threw five goals front. Aly Bustamante and one from Jon Chua to earn back Navy, 6-5; and University of Asia and the Pacific, behind Nicholas Reyes and Marc Joe Gonzalez, whipped the AFP Selection, 5-1.

BAHRAIN CAGE CHAMPS

Bahrain Basketball Association president Shaikh Mohammad Jolaid Bin Isa and his deputy present the trophy to Philippine Ambassador Pablo Magbitang (fourth from left) and Abbin Marzuka (left) after national shooting champion Mathematic "Tac" Pedilla's Spring Cooking Oil cagers bagged the Bahrain-RP Goodwill Games crown Friday by running the Bahrain national squad. Also in picture are delegation head Tito Palma (in red shirt), coach Orlan "Yong" Garcia and players Chito Victolero, Nelson Asoyinen, Danny Capulong, Long David, Jes Gaurza, Gilbert Hon, Mac Tiongco and Noel Epochchan.

Intervillage golf today at F. Hills

THE 2006 ROMAN CUP INTERVILLAGE GOLF tournament resumes today with the staging of the Nikko Administration at Forest Hills in Antipolo in thanking nine teams from various golfing villages in the metropolis.

Senator chairperson Gwendolyn Garcia will lead in the first round of the 36-hole qualifiers in the third Nikko group. The other leader rating for the top four berths in the grand finals are BF Homes, Marcelle, Blue Ridge, Greenhills, Wack-Wack, Manila Polo, San Lorenzo, South Bay Garden and Valle Verde 1/5.

Teams with best knowledge of the rough up and layout are sure to shine in the tournament sponsored by the administration giant Nikko.

Ayala Alabang topped the Nikko 1 eliminations at Riviera, besting BF Homes, Wack-Wack and defeating title, while Hillsborough showed the way to the Nikko 2 qualifiers as it bested La Vista, Tahanan and Greenhills.

The top four teams in each of the three divisions after the eliminations will advance to the finals of the 12-angling 8 in event tournament.

Orcollo tops California pool

THE FILIPINO'S MONEY GAME WINS IT HERE

Orcollo bested countryman Gandy Vale, 11-7, in the finals Sunday to win the first stop of the Mid-Series Tournament of Champions in Sacramento, California. The 27-year-old Pinoy earned The top purse of $3,000 and ranked. On the way to the championship clash, he beat Dan Olsen (9-3), David Peltz (9-3), Arnel Wong (9-5), Tony Drahein (9-7), Mohamed Ellis (9-5) and Jim Rich (11-10) to advance. Not for the series-up prize of $7,000, Riley and Marcelino Wed up the four-box division. Table, who the Orcollo is sponsored by Pinoy Warriors, remained busy that (9-4) pool legend Jose Parica (9-5) and Pinoy (9-5) and Pinoy Warriors (9-5) before losing to Ilday (9-7) in the winner's bracket in the fourth round. Marlito Bercasio, contributor

Mangio-lujo dispute title

AFTER BEING SIDELINED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, Mangio-lujo is the championship round this Saturday at the 2006 Petron National Athletic Meet at the Subic Waterfront Beach. Michael Mangio and Mike Lujo can elevate the Boston Rider of their time when they are pummeled by Petron Lubricants-sponsored by 300 lbs. Marlboro Antiquity Gang to Drill, Courtyard Inn.

Big derbies slated at SJC

A NEW CITY WILL BE BORN WHEN THE SAN JUAN Competitors' Stadium is dedicated on Sen. Juan Cultivation Center's opening on Wednesday, with the Confederation Cordillera Association of the Philippines (CCAP) Central Championship to clock derby featuring more than 45 fights. Today in this outstanding of activities from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free breakfast, call Promise at 725-1269, 726-6662 or 485-1 800 0000. The United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA) will stage a special 5-cock derby on July 1. More than 50 breeders have confirmed for the event which offers a total purse of P150,000 cash. Interested breeders can call Ernesto Lacanlale at 0908-[illegible] Derby fee is P5,000.

Sta. Ana 3-cocker today

IT WILL BE A FUN-FILLED FOUR HOURS WHEN THE derby goes live Friday. Pacalipan, Las Piñas and Malabon in a special 3-cock derby which kicks off at 1 p.m. today at the Sta. Ana Cockpit in Makati City. More than 60 matches are on tap in the event that offers P150,000 in cash and prizes, and host Dindo Manansala. Next Tuesday, June 27, 5-cock Sta. Ana Cockpit's turn to host another 3-cock derby at the same venue as the Pacalipan derby. Meanwhile, the campaign Gamboa Derby Race has confirmed the participation of more than 150 entries in the much-awaited "Sunset Mini-Bird Cock Derby" on July 1. A guarantee purse of more than P200,000 is up for grabs for as little as P1,000. For reservations, call the Sta. Ana Cockpit at 896-3333 or 899-3333.

Miami nears title as Wade hits 21 of 25 free throws

HEAT'S Dwayne Wade soars to shoot under pressure from Mavericks' DeShawn Stevenson in the second half of Game 5 of their NBA Finals. AFP

MIAMI—DWYANE WADE SCORED 42 points, including two free throws with 1.9 seconds left in overtime, to give the Miami Heat a 101-100 victory over the Dallas Mavericks and a 3-2 lead in the NBA Finals.

The series now shifts to Dallas on Tuesday, where Miami can wrap up the first title in its 18-year history by winning either Game 6 or, if necessary, Game Seven.

Wade hit only 11 of 26 shots for the game but 21 of 25 free throws, some bigger than the two he sunk in the dying seconds following a foul by Dallas center Dirk Nowitzki.

A three-quarter court shot by Miami's guard Devin Harris was way off the mark as the buzzer sounded, setting off an explosive roar from the American Airlines Arena crowd.

A 17-foot fade away shot by Nowitzki in heavy traffic with 9.1 seconds left had given the Mavericks a 100-99 lead but Wade drove the lane by Nowitzki while driving to the basket.

Jason Terry scored 30 points to lead the Mavericks, hitting 13 of 22 shots, including four of nine from beyond the arc.

Dallas entered the game with its confidence shaken after blowing a 13-point lead in the final six minutes of a 98-96 loss in Game Three, and then getting blown out 99-74 in Game Four.

On top of that, key reserve Jerry Stackhouse was suspended for Sunday's game for a flagrant foul committed against Shaquille O'Neal in the third quarter of Game Four.

A jam by center Erick Dampier gave Dallas a 93-91 lead with 13.1 seconds left in regulation. But Wade tied the game with an acrobatic free-throw bank shot with only 2.8 seconds remaining.

Following a time-out, Terry's attempt at a game-winning 15-footer rimmed out, sending the game into the extra session.

O'Neal finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds but the 13-time All-Star was a miserable two for 12 from the free-throw line.

Miami was 32 for 49 from the line, while Dallas was 21 of 25.

Josh Howard added 25 points for the Mavericks but the third-year player missed on key free throws with 54 seconds left to overtime with Dallas holding a 98-97 lead.

Mikaile Gary Payton responded with a layup high off the glass with 29.8 seconds left to give Miami a 99-98 lead, setting up Wade's potential game-winner with nine seconds left.

The Mavericks nearly delivered Miami its first two games of the series in Dallas, but have been all three in Miami. Reuters

Sports fans have twice the fun

MIAMI, FLORIDA—THIS IS AN EXTRA SPECIAL time of year to be an American sports fan.

With the NBA Finals and the 2006 FIFA World Cup going on at the same time, fans attending the Miami Dolphins may have the best of both worlds.

Before shooting on their beloved basketball heroes at night they can watch the United States playing football during the day.

"I have definitely paid more attention this year than any other year," said Russell Johnson who made the trip to Miami from Pittsburg, Mississippi to catch game five of the NBA Finals. "Soccer is getting more and more popular in the United States thanks to things like NBA video games."

Many of the locals from here in Miami are hosting special World Cup parties and showing games live on big screen TVs. Waiters are decked out in jerseys of their favorite teams and souvenir shops in town like 'Little Haiti' and 'Little Cuba' are selling football merchandise.

Popular South Beach bar Ida Cha Cha's Bodega are running football fans with "Happy Hour" cocktail prices drinks) and a breakfast special. Serious many of the games are broadcast live early in the morning in the United States.

Germany's Lilli Nowitzki would like nothing more than to win an NBA title with the Dallas Mavericks and then head to Europe to celebrate a German victory in the World Cup.

"You know, they have a young team, and they have got a new coach that's trying to do some stuff," Nowitzki said of the German team. "He just said that I can't be there to support the team and I just really watch two much because I'm really focused on the finals."

Miami police officer Barry Dobson boldly predicted the Americans would bounce back from their slow start and win the tournament. AFP

Let the buyer beware: Heat are now a white-hot ticket

MIAMI—IF YOU'VE ERIC WOOLworth cheek to cheek messages, there's a request waiting. Doesn't matter if it's his home phone, his office, his cell, his e-mail, someone has always made the same inquiry.

"You got any tickets for me?"

Not long ago, the answer usually was, "No."

Back then—as recently as the 2003-04 season—the Miami Heat didn't exactly as sell out their home building because they knew the supply of seats easily exceeded the demand of fans willing to pay for them. So their black executives ordered off much of the arena's highest level, hiding thousands of empty chairs.

Now, the Heat are the hottest ticket in South Florida, thanks to Shaquille O'Neal, Dwyane Wade and anyone else who played a role in the team reaching the NBA Finals for the first time. And when Woolworth returns those calls these days, his answers aren't received so warmly.

"I still do my best to get back to everybody," said Woolworth, the Heat's president of business operations, "even if it's just to say 'Sorry.'"

Every regular-season and playoff game this season at immeasurable-Isaac Arena was a sellout, including Sunday's Game 5 of the NBA Finals between the Heat and the Dallas Mavericks. Over 53 games—41 in the regular season, 12 in the playoffs—the Heat drew about 1.1 million fans, a team record.

Not only are the seats filled by 20,000 plus every night, they're one stuffed now, too.

Shaquille Ughetan and Alonzo Mourning are regulars. So is Gloria Estefan. Singer Jimmy Buffett is a longtime Heat season-ticket holder. Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino and other past and current Miami Dolphins stars are often in attendance.

Anyone, Donald Trump, Alex Rodriguez, you name it, if they're a star living in or coming through South Florida, they're probably here to a Heat game this season.

"When you think about who's here to watch or play," point guard James Williams said, "it's crazy." AP

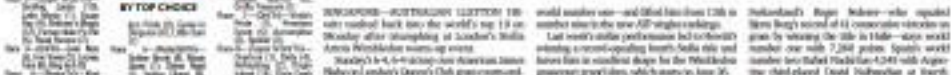
Hewitt returns to top 10 with Stella Artois win

SINGAPORE—AUSTRALIAN LLEYTON HEwitt vaulted back into the world's top 10 on Monday after triumphing at London's Stella Artois Wimbledon warm-up event.

Hewitt's 6-4, 6-4 victory over American James Blake at London's Queen's Club grass courts ended a 17-event losing drought for the former world number one—and lifted him from 13th in number nine in the new ATP singles rankings.

Last week's stellar performance led to Hewitt entering a record-equalling fourth Stella title and leaves him in excellent shape for the Wimbledon grand slam, which starts on June 26.

The top of the rankings remained unchanged, Switzerland's Roger Federer—who equaled Pete Sampras's record of 64 consecutive victories on grass by winning the title in Halle—stays world number one with 7,268 points. Spain's world number two Rafael Nadal has 4,045 with Argentine third-placed David Nalbandian at fourth. American Andy Roddick remained fifth. Reuters



SPORTS

Brazil advances; France struggles

BERLIN—BRAZIL OVERCAME A RATTLING AUSTRALIA TO AD-vance to the World Cup's last 16 on Sunday but France were left struggling for survival despite ending an eight-year goal drought.

Defending champions Brazil extended their record winning streak at the World Cup finals to nine games with a 2-0 win over Australia, although they struggled to dominate and often came under fierce pressure.

Goals from Adriano and Fred secured Brazil's second round place, but fortune circled Scolari's men unfavorably for the second game running. Australia once again to race wasted chances as substitute Harry Kewell missed one open goal and later shot just over the bar from long range.

In Sunday's other Group F game, Croatia and Japan both squandered opportunities in a goalless draw that left both sides' chances of making it past the group stage. Keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi was Japan's best, diving low to his left to save a Darijo Srna penalty.

The climax of the day's action came in Leipzig, where Ronaldo Nazario grabbed a late goal for a 1-1 draw with France in a thrilling finish to their Group G game.

After just nine minutes, striker Thierry Henry slid a left-foot shot past Korean goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae for France's first goal at the finals since they crushed Brazil 3-0 in Paris to win the 1998 world title.

Twenty-three minutes later it should have been 2-0 when a Patrick Vieira header appeared to cross the line before being parried by Lee.

But France failed to capitalize on their momentum, and they paid the price for raising back when Park Ji-sung poked a spinning ball past keeper Fabien Barthez to equalize after 81 minutes.

Zinedine Zidane's substitution in injury time could mark his World Cup farewell—he will make the next game with "legs after picking up his second yellow card.

France will certainly need to beat the West Africans to retain chances of progressing to the last 16.

Brazil's fathers rather formidable team also bonded against Australia. Though he set up the opening goal for Adriano, he finished one chance and was involved in a bout of vandalism argument with coach Carlos Alberto Parreira. Reuters

Super-sub's deep cross lifts Korea to 1-1 draw

WORLD Cup matches: From top left, defender Japan's Alexandre Santos (left) and Croatia's Niko Kranjcar challenge for the ball in World Cup Group F in Nuremberg, Germany; Japan's goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi makes a save on a penalty kick by Croatia's Dado Prso in Nuremberg; Brazil's goalkeeper Dida raises a save during the Brazil-Australia Group F match in Munich; Brazil's Fred celebrates after scoring the second goal for his team; South Korea player's celebrate after Park Ji-Sung (7) scored a goal in a Group G match against France in Leipzig; and France's Zinedine Zidane (10) and South Korea's Kim Young-Chul (2) compete for the ball. AFP

LEIPZIG—SOUTH KOREA SUPER-SUB SHIN Jo-hyoun, whose deep cross set up Park Ji-Sung's opportunistic equalizer in the 1-1 draw with France, said he trembled in the centre circle in front of his fellow 2006 World Cup newcomers.

Coach Dick Advocaat sent on the Sheffield winger after half-time and Seol scorched the ageing Frenchmen with his pace and trickery.

French coach Raymond Domenech fielded the country's oldest ever international side with an average age of 30 years and 289 days and several players rolled late in the second half as South Korea surged forward.

One of the old stagers, 34-year-old defender Lilian Thuram, equaled Marcel Desailly's record of 116 appearances for Les Bleus but it was not a comfortable night for the Juventus star.

Seol's introduction was the second tactical masterstroke by Advocaat in the tournament after he gambled in the last 45 minutes against Togo by playing with four forwards when South Korea trailed 1-0.

The winner from substitute Ahn Jung-Hwan proved him right on that occasion and Seol repaid the coach's confidence in his ability with a sparkling 45 minutes against the French.

"I am very happy with the result and the way I played," said Seol, who was part of the South Korea team which emerged to the semi-finals of the 2002 World Cup.

"The first half was very difficult for us but the French are not physically perfect and in the second half we got some chances.

"I was ready to play and Mr Advocaat gave me the chance to show something. When I moved to the right side I felt more confident about winning the one-on-ones." AFP

Japanese plot 'miracle win' over Brazilians

BONN—JAPAN MAY HAVE ONly the slimmest of chances of beating Brazil for survival in the World Cup finals but Zico dismissed claims they are ruled out a "mission impossible" over the four-time holders.

"Football throws up some unexpected results," Japan coach Zico said after the 0-0 draw against Croatia on Sunday put both sides' hopes of reaching the second round. "We know how good Brazil are, but we intend to give them a real battle."

"We are banging on by the skin of our teeth," said goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi whose masterful start of a Croatian penalty kept a clean sheet for Japan in Nuremberg on Sunday.

"I will give all I have. Steve told if I get cramps and collapse," added the former Portsmouth keeper.

Kawaguchi repelled a barrage of shots—including a Roberto Carlos free kick—when Japan upset Brazil 1-0 in Miami in the first round of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

The victory, albeit at an under-aged level, is finally remembered fondly in the "suburbs of Hikari."

Japan also take pride in a 2-2 draw against Brazil in the first round of the Confederations Cup in Germany a year ago.

"We should not be afraid just because our opponents are Brazil. We have experience of playing them before," Zico said.

In World Cup Group-E, Brazil resulted the second round on Sunday by defeating Australia 2-0. The Australians beat Japan 3-1 to their opener. AFP

SOUTH Koreans here watch a live TV broadcast of the Korea-France showdown on a giant video installed in downtown Seoul. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. AFP

Thousands of fans celebrate close escape against French

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—AN EARLY morning kick-off didn't deter hundreds of thousands of South Korean soccer fans from travelling downtown to their nation's no ape, after tying 1-1 with France to keep their World Cup dreams alive.

Although the match started at 4 a.m. local time, the streets of Seoul and other cities across the country were still packed with "Red Devils," as South Korea's fans are known. Some 600,000 fans gathered outdoors in Seoul alone, including 280,000 in Seoul, police said.

It was South Korea's star player Park Ji-sung who leveled the game in the 81st minute, helping keep hopes alive that the country might repeat its performance in the 2002 World Cup when South Korea reached the semifinals.

"Although our team lacked much strategy in the first half of the game, I'm satisfied to see that with our relentless spirit our team at least tied with one of the best traditional soccer powerhouses," said Oh Jung-Hwan, 30, who played up the whole night as Seoul Olympics Stadium to Seoul.

Given the early starting time, some companies gave their workers Monday off while others reportedly called their staff in early so they could watch the game together.

"Because I understand the employees' enthusiasm for soccer, I gave them the half-day off so that they could cheer on our team freely," said Oh, who runs his own interior design company.

Others weren't so lucky. One group of high school students in uniforms were cheering early Monday with bloodshot eyes—watching the team's red strips—before heading to class. AP

Swathe of WC players sport tattoos

BERLIN—HIS DETECTIVE TO keep their shirt on after scoring might keep many of them under wraps, but the World Cup looks to gather a wealth of players who don't mind getting the needle—for the sake of sporting a tattoo.

The bejewelled skin of England skipper David Beckham is well-documented but he is far from alone among the 736 players taking part at the event.

Drawings, messages of undying love, children's names scroll arms, backs, legs and necks, as well as other assorted regions.

Beckham famously has the names of sons Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz as well as that of his wife, Victoria—to Hindi—on his forearm, though some linguistic experts say it contains inaccuracies.

Under Victoria's name—"It would look tacky if I had Victoria's in English," Beckham says—is the Latin phrase Ni Asimio ni Ronaldo, translating that which I love and adore.

He once said he also has his England number woven in Roman numerals—he wears the same number shirt at Manchester United but has worn 23 at Real Madrid...and a number of other additions including a winged guardian angel across the back of his neck and a Hebrew angel's name on his right arm.

"My dad had three names of his own and so the idea has been with me since I was a kid," the player once explained. AFP

BECKHAM

ENTERTAINMENT
Edna Tolentino G. Velarde

MTRCB reprimands GMA 7, ABS-CBN and F channel

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW and Classification Board (MTRCB) has reprimanded three channels: GMA 7 for the late-night documentary program "I-Witness"; ABS-CBN for the primetime reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition"; and F channel 34 on Destiny Cable.

The MTRCB held an adjudication meeting with ABS-CBN officials last June 5 and with F and GMA 7 representatives last June 6.

In a memo dated May 31, the MTRCB agency complained that the F channel aired "on or about 2 p.m. on May 9" a "scene/episode wherein a male model [showed] his [genitals], covered with electronic material, as well as female models with their breasts exposed."

Meeting today

Such scenes, the agency had pointed out, "were not fit for TV viewing."

In a phone interview on Saturday, MTRCB chair Ma. Consuelo F. Lagunilla said F channel had not responded to the complaint. "The channels have 15 days to respond after one last meeting."

The board is also to meet with the channel's representatives today.

The reunion show of ABS-CBN's "PBB" last June 4, according to Lagunilla, aired seamlessly with double-meaning.

"We are planning to invite 'PBB' representatives again, to prevent the repetition of the same mistakes," said Lagunilla.

"The Sunday show was produced by a different group, not by the 'PBB' main. I wonder what the chair was referring to," TV director Laurenti Dyogi told Inquirer via SMS.

The MTRCB also summoned representatives of two other Kapamilya shows, "Home Boy" on ABS-CBN and "It's a Gay Thing" on Studio 23, for a meeting set today. Representatives of the GMA 7 reunion "Lagot Ka, Imamberong Kiko" were also called to the same hearing.

Lastly, the complaints against GMA 7 centered on the "I-Witness" episode entitled "Lolahyo: Hindi Ito Basta," reported and anchored by Howie Severino.

Severino told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview on Saturday that the show's goal was "to educate the public on an age-old tradition that was first documented by ethnologists and National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan."

The "offending" footage involved live fowl, utensils, "manananggals" and wooden phalluses, according to the memo. MTRCB agents also signed the complaint letter dated May 28.

The agents reported that the show was "aired last May 22 around 11:30 p.m."

Severino contested this in the network's "counter-affidavit," presented to the board on June 6, saying the "show was broadcast after midnight."

Severino said GMA 7's letter to the MTRCB reiterated that the show should be seen in its "cultural context."

Lagunilla acknowledged that "it you cancel a ritual, but the general public might see the scene in isolation. The producers should have 'sidelined' or blurred these sensitive portions."

"We don't even agree [with the board]

BYLINE ALSO

'Lewd' footage should be seen in cultural context, says documentarian

A SCENE from the "I-Witness" documentary "Lolahyo: Hindi Ito Basta"

'Kinsey' uncut at Ayala cinemas

THE PROVOCATIVE drama "Kinsey," starring Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Peter Sarsgaard and Chris O'Donnell, will be shown in its original, uncut R-18 version exclusively at Ayala Malls Cinemas—Cinema 6 and Greenbelt 5—tomorrow.

The critically acclaimed film examines the life of Alfred Kinsey, a man driven to succeed the taboo private secrets of America.

Sexual behavior

Liam Neeson stars as Kinsey who, in 1948, changed American culture with his book, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male."

Interviewing thousands of people about the most intimate aspects of their lives, Kinsey hoped to lift the weight of secrecy and shame from a society in which sexual practices were mostly hidden.

His work sparked one of the most important debates of the past century that still rages on today.

Global fame

The movie recounts the scientist's extraordinary journey from obscurity to global fame.

Kinsey and his team refined an interviewing technique that helps people to break through shame, fear and guilt and speak freely about their sexual histories.

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4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES
5 LAKE HOUSE
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7 X-MEN 3
8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
9 CARS
10 THE OMEN

ERMITA

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 GARFIELD 2
4 LAKE HOUSE
5 CARS
TAKE THE LEAD
6 THE OMEN
X-MEN 3
7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

METRO EAST

1 TAKE THE LEAD
THE DA VINCI CODE
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 THE OMEN
X-MEN 3
6 LAKE HOUSE
7 GARFIELD 2
8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

NOVALICHES

1 GARFIELD 2
2 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
3 THE OMEN / X-MEN 3
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 LAKE HOUSE

OTIS/QUIRINO/MALABON

1 IMANY PG
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 LAKE HOUSE
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

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2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 REINCARNATION
5 X-MEN 3

DASMARIÑAS

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH

ANGELES

1 CARS
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 GARFIELD 2
4 LAKE HOUSE

IMUS

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE OMEN
4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 CARS

STARMILLS

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 GARFIELD 2
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 X-MEN 3 / THE OMEN

BACOLOD

1 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 X-MEN 3
5 AQUAMARINE
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MTRCB chides GMA 7 . . .

From page A2-1

that it's melodrama." Investec concerned "it was a Lenox stand in volving Bagalter to Cagayan province. It had nothing to do with me."

Chapter IV of the MTRCB's implementing Rules and Regulations defines an R-rated movie as TV shows as any that depicts sexual conduct "in a patently lewd, offensive or demeaning manner."

"But that is subject to interpretation," Investec stressed.

Investec assured that the documentary had "academic value. It's in the public interest. It's about our heritage. It was also be seen in light of gender politics."

Investec said that the network had planned "to submit to the MTRCB a revised statement yesterday, to which we would politely clarify our stance in airing the docu."

Songs about falling out . . .

From page A2-6

As for Alcantara, who hardly qualifies as a purist here, it would have to be his style of playing...simple, uncluttered, affecting.

Backed by a steady rhythm section, MYMP is a recipe for feel good vibes and constant percussion.

But Alcantara, after doing a cover of "Every Little Thing She Does is Magic," a 1980s Police hit, pointed out: "This concert's title is not quite right, because when we're singing new it's really about falling out of love."

When we heard [illegible] Alcantara recalled, "a fan [illegible] told us about [illegible] relationship.

We deliberately mentioned the songwriters in the repertoire because Fernandez didn't seem to care that these covers were largely responsible for the fame MYMP has been basking in.

It was the opposite of how pissed-off Sponge Cola's Yael Yuzon reacted to his performances. In a playful reference to the Ape, Yuzon lambasted his just-infected version of "Pasilangin" by saying: "It's galing sa mga umuusong bay bands."

In underscore the irony of the concert title, Velasco and Fernandez proceeded to interpret an achingly sad Phil Collins original, "Separate Lives." The crowd loved it.

In the end it all made sense. Never mind who wrote what.

Glamorous memories of a long-lost H'wood

TWINLAND HOW: Olivia de Havilland

LOS ANGELES—JUST A COUPLE of weeks before turning 90, actress Olivia de Havilland has returned to look in Hollywood glory.

And her latest close-up—at a tribute to her work by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Thursday night (Friday in Manila)—was a roaring success. She had to sunglasses of film industry success and students hoping to their feet to applaud the iconic legend and her roles in a long, lost Hollywood.

De Havilland, who starred beauty who won hearts as Melanie in "Gone with the Wind" and two Oscars for roles in "To Each His Own" and "The Heiress," made her entrance walking briskly down the aisle of the Samuel Goldwyn Theater.

The actress, born in Britain parents in 1916 and raised in California living with her mom, actress Jean Fontaine, looked elegant in a chic cream-colored silk suit, matching pumps and three strands of plump pearls. But that investigation and subsequent skin lifted her spirits.

On stage she ran through a series of clips from her prolific movies and then discussed a bit that included encounters with the likes of Errol Flynn, Montgomery Clift and Richard Burton.

Remembering Flynn

Signed by Warner Bros. in 1935 to a seven-year contract, the raven-haired actress assayed opposite Flynn in "Captain Blood," the role that, he was 20.

The pair made eight films, the last being Raoul Walsh's 1941 drama about George Custer, "They Died With Their Boots On."

Of that film, she said, "There was a real grief taken we made that. I felt the same way the next day and the day after that. And many many years later I realized this would be the last picture I would make with Errol."

But as to whether the movie romance bloomed off-

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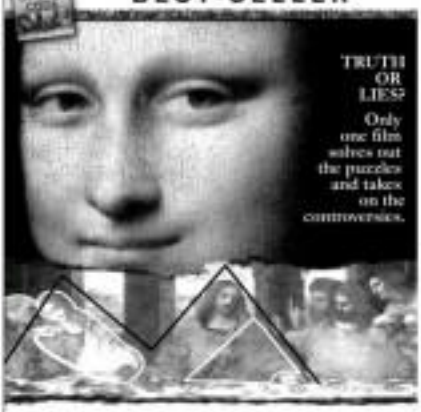

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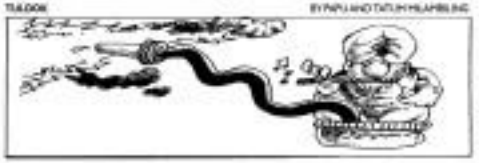

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

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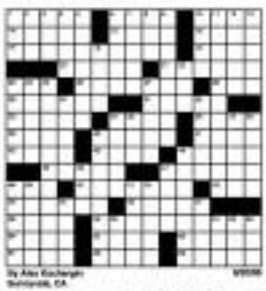

By Alex Boxberger
Sunnyvale, CA

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			5		7			
2	7	5				1	6	4
1								8
5			9		2			3
		4				2		
8			7		3			1
6								2
9	1	7				4	8	6
			6		4			

Difficulty Level ★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	9	6	4	3	8	5	2	1
4	8	2	9	5	1	8	7	3
1	3	5	7	6	2	9	5	4
6	1	7	2	9	3	4	8	5
8	2	4	1	7	5	3	6	9
3	5	9	8	4	6	7	1	2
2	4	3	5	8	7	1	9	6
9	6	1	6	2	4	5	3	7
5	7	8	3	1	9	2	4	8

Engaging mix of fun and good sense

ENDAY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Channel 2 is telecasting a new show about hot teenagers, "Let's Go." We caught the comedy show for the first time last June 18, and liked it for its brisk pacing, varied situations and perky performances.

"Let's Go" deserves to be encouraged because it gives some 18 students a chance to strut their thespic stuff for viewers to like or scoff at. From the looks of it, some of the show's relatively unknown performers have what it takes to eventually become young stars.

This is an encouraging departure from usual TV practice, which is to load a show with as many star names as possible, leaving "new" starlets very few opportunities to do any real acting.

CATHY Quiroga

TOMMY Boy Sta. Maria

On "Let's Go," there aren't any big stars around, so the lead students have the run of the show, and they make full use of the rare opportunity to impress and delight viewers.

Last June 10, the episode focused on scenes set in a bar and dorm. On the negative side, the situations pretty much showed teenagers having a fun but stupid time, more concerned with looking fashionable than thinking straight and doing what's right.

More positively, however, the show came up with insights in its teens who waste their time in unlikely "gimmicks," Sally orders juice when she refreshments, and come to blocky and wrong conclusions about someone's sexual orientation.

"Let's Go" is produced mainly to entertain teen viewers, but the occasional thematic pulses it makes are welcome. Let's hope that the next show sustains its engaging mix of fun and good sense in the months to come. —That's the way to go!

New films on view

NATCH out for three promising new movies: "Kinsey," with Liam Neeson as pioneering sex researcher Alfred Kinsey in the "psycho-sexual drama." Kinsey is shown treading into new territory with boldness, courage and daring. It's sexy stuff, but the movie also works hard at shed light on the dark corners of sexual psychology.

"Lady in the Water" started out as a story that Shyamalan M. Night Shyamalan first thought up for his children.

In the film, Cleveland Heep (Paul Giamatti) has been trying to disappear. But, on the night that irreversibly changes his life, he finds someone else hidden in his modest apartment building...a mysterious young woman named Story (Bryce Dallas Howard). She has been living in the passageways beneath the building's swimming pool.

Cleveland discovers that Story is a "narf"—a nymph like creature from a bedtime story who is being stalked by vicious creatures determined to prevent her from making the treacherous journey from the world back to hers.

Thus, Cleveland and Story must work together to decipher a series of clues that will unlock the pathway to her freedom. But the window of opportunity for Story to return home is closing rapidly, so Cleveland will have to face the demons that have been hounding them, if they hope to succeed in their dangerous attempt to save her.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

It's the way to go for this new teen program

PAUL Giamatti and Bryce Dallas Howard in "Lady in Water"

"The Devil Wears Prada" stars Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway in a story set in the quixotic, psychedelic world of high fashion.

'Mga Prenyadong Dula'

UP'S Cumpio's book of award-winning plays, "Mga Pre-nyadong Dula," was launched last June 8 at the Wade Theatre lobby of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The collection features five contemporary plays—"Isang dula Cruz, New York City," "Silid nayad," "Impasyon," "Mata mocoyed" and "Nuño de Bastida."

Long-lost H'wood

Front page 43-1

screen, the lady seen with snow-white hair, trembled say.

"If seen 'Robin Hood' in Paris in 1938 and we're loved it before, before then how wonderful I thought it was. But I didn't send it and very much with I had."

She said the last time she saw the Tyrolean-born swashbuckler was at a gala here. One year, when she felt someone kiss her on the back of her neck, but she didn't recognize him at first.

"He said, 'It's fi-nal.' 'Errol who?' I asked. It was his eyes. They used to be merry, but now they were troubled. There was something dead about him."

With that, de Havilland's voice, still resonant and remarkably recognizable, cracked a bit as she said, "He died two weeks later."

Happy retiree

De Havilland has been retired from acting since appearing in a TV movie, "The Woman He Loved," in 1988.

Having lived in Paris for the past half-century, the actress said she works on needlepoint, which she picked up while co-starring with Clift in the William Wyler-directed film from 1949, "The Heiress."

Asked about her favorite role, she replied: "I let 'Gone with the Wind' would last five years, and let 'Hamlet' nine. So, and no, it's a new millennium. There is a special place in my heart for that film and Melanie." Melanie (wooding Ryster)

ENTERTAINMENT

Aga is 'Ulirang Ama' awardee

AGA Muhlach with twins Atasha and Andres

IT'S KNOWN AGA MUHLACH long before his "Super" days. Now he has admirable traits begin of his own—a seven-old **Andres Muhlach.** He also has an older son, Igi Boy, with **Atasha.** As a friend, Atasha, ing (his persona) is the kind other always makes his governor kit. He is never absent from your life. I'm touched when he tells me of the time you re Dubai, on set when. This one bonded in ans or another con- wrowes. He is that attuned as a friend, you can just imagine what he's like as solid.

That's why it's no surprise that Aga received the "Ulirang Ama" award 2016" from the National Mother's Day & Father's Day Foundations, Inc. on June 16. Considered the most prestigious award that could be given to an outstanding Filipino father, the distinction was given to Aga for his significant achievements as an actor and father. "I'm overwhelmed," he gushed. "This recognition means more to me than an acting award."

Aga describes himself as a hands-on dad. "Charlene and I make sure that we are the first persons we interact when they wake up."

Aga will be taking breaks on his busy acting days—very few.

Eddie's impact

DAVE always been in awe of Eddie Garcia. I remember when I used to stay along with my Mom during her "free Tuesday" days, that Eddie's snappy answers on the show always made an impact on me. For instance, his take on billing concerns was, "I don't make a fuss about billing. As long as my name is spelled correctly, that's all that matters."

It was such a delight to watch him with him during the premiere of "I Wanna Be Happy." He plays a nuns whom wife Jillian Ramsay's decides to leave him and when their are about to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. How would he handle such a situation if it happened to him in real life?

"I'd let her go. It's useless to keep holding someone who no longer finds the same way for you. I've come this far in life to realize that you cannot force things to happen. Just let nature take its course."

Here it was this well-respected veteran, actor has always known how to go with the flow. How his heart overflows with all the lessons he spreads around as well.

EDDIE Garcia

Dynamic duo

PAULEEN Luna

Forget her not

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

TELEVISION and live comedy concert scene's dynamic duo, **Jose Manalo** and **Wally Bayola**, spread wacky cheers and comics Club on their debut CD, "Jose & Wally: Tie Me Laugh," another Sony R&C. In between dishing out tunes like "Bahay ng Bisita," "Pending Pepe," and "Kung Kung," they chime in to reveal each singer, Jose and Wally set no overnight successes. Their popularity is a product of years of struggle and hard work. Catch them at SM Jose Lazaro, June 11, SM Baguio, June 24, SM Cagayan de Oro, June 25, Ayala Cebu, June 26, Ayala Center, Davao, June 27, and SM Valenzuela, June 30.

Sugar & Spice Girl

I ADED Denham Luna love the animated shows. "I would enjoy [read]...so when I was in Singapore for a week, I watched cartoons a thing. Pamayan ako [what]" she revealed. What about the spice in her love life? "I do really enjoy single Miss Confessed of Ilok will Ever! She smiled. "We are just teammates, though I'd like to get to know him more." Will they be the next show biz-Fifth cute or have an honeymoon of love? Only her hand will "love reveal"!

Rafa, May I?

M.Ds May Quintos and Rafa Siguion-Reyna were spotted Boracay over Easter weekend. Ehrhorn's Inquirer. I assured Tisha for the real scoop but she hasn't replied. Ehrhorn's not many, or two happy to text back. RSR and budding romance finally forged early reports that Rafa is gay? Well, Rafa May's are opposite, here's an easy get not very true a never-ever-ever-for the feel-and the-ill of it!

Just friends

JC Tiu Vera seemed shocked when I contacted him and asked, "Is Julie of husband your girlfriend?" He gave the usual cheesy answer of ... just being her friend. But something in his eyes told me what he could not say. "It (JC) is (with her)."

Personal

THANKS is still in recuperation. Brother Ricky Reyes and his wife, client staff at Megastah—Tess Bonin, Gina Lazo, Dyn Olivea and Cherry for the out-super treatment.

(E-mail: wearingthedots@inquirer.com)

Late-night news comes early

By Roy and Sun Diego Jr.

"BARBULA," ABS-CBN's RIDDOMATED late-night entertainer, will soon be aired at an earlier time slot, 10:30, starting July 11.

This development was announced today by Eugenie Gabriel Lopez III, network chair; Charo Santos, channel head and executive vice president, ABC; and Malu Bunn, senior vice president and head of News and Current Affairs.

Bunn gave Inquirer Entertainment a first look at the rearrangement of "Bubuka" of the late-night lineup.

Inquirer initially broke the story on May 28, after their late-night Current Affairs shows—"Byuti," "Kumbentional" and "Bayang Inquirer"—were rumored to be facing cancellation.

Big risk

While "Bayang Inquirer" was rescued later on by, most of the morning program, "Magandang Buwaya Pilipinas," "Byuti" and "Kumbentional" will soon stop being, Bunn confirmed.

Bunn: "Among awards of planning," the network is unveiling many "changes" in its evening lineup.

Head of Current Affairs Lucchi Cruz-Valdez said the conflict movement it "an act of leadership."

"It's a big risk," Bunn noted. "We are making a bet that Filipino viewers want to receive information while they are still awake."

Media critic Jose Jaimoval that late-night newscasts cater to much earlier, at 12 midnight, and Tagalog Mass program, even later at 1 a.m.

"We are responding to a theme," Valdez said.

Valdez admitted that this move entails a huge sacrifice: "We are going up against Entertainment shows on the other channels," she said.

However, Valdez said, there is the risk of losing revenues from advertisers who prefer Entertainment shows over Mid Ang programs.

Judgment call

"We are making a judgment call at a full network," Bunn explained. "In the Philippines, news hours are one of the entire summer consumers. At present, [that] we get everyone's blessing, including the Entertainment people."

The "re-grinding," Bunn said, "represents the changes in our newsroom in the past year. It pushes our future thinking and [enables] journalists ... in the service of nation-building."

Three days in the week week, the Riverwalk newscast is to be followed by some from Current Affairs program—starting it "an hour and a half of PBB," on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday," Valdez said.

"Entertainment kept only two days (Monday and Friday," Bunn said. "The Bawe General affairs shows that have been tentative: The Correspondents' (Tuesday), 'LOCAL' or 'Issues of the Day: Operation,' (Wednesday), ... and 'Probe' (Thursday)."

Songs about falling out of love

By Pocholo Concepcion
Correspondent

THE BOOMERS LOCAL MUSIC SCENE has rallied over to include cinemas as concert venues.

At the SM Megamall, a recent gig featuring KITARP attracted a full house crowd of teenagers, twenty-something's and young couples. Thirty minutes before doors open, the line that snaked through the cinema lobby was so long, for a second we thought we were going to hear our names.

MYMP, a pop group led by guitarist Chie Abrahan and fronted by singer Jun Rey Pandez, is probably the hottest among the current crop of mellow music acts because its latest album had reportedly gone over the platinum-level—a feat in an age of rampant CD piracy.

Still the fans couldn't get enough of the group. The bilingual chorus was proof.

"Why would people normally attracted to artists with star quality fussy a very unassuming act like MYMP?

Perhaps Pandez's demeanor approximates that of any plain Jane, and it's got to be his voice—heartfelt, pleasing, charismatic.

REVIEW

... seem to do just as well for loyal fans of MYMP

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BUSINESS
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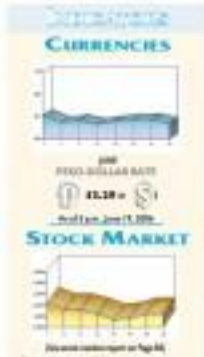
40% of OFW families save part of remittances



But BSP survey says only 10% try knack at investing

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONLY ONE OUT OF 10 HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED by overseas Filipino workers' remittances try to invest in stocks or private business, with four others choosing to save some money in banks and other depository institutions, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

A survey conducted by the BSP showed that about 16 percent of households based in Metro Manila have at least one OFW one of those families, 91.3 percent received remittances over the last 12 months.

In terms of how the remittances were used, 91.5 percent or nearly all of the households spent part of the money to buy food and pay for other domestic expenditures.

But BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo noted that the 39 percent of households who saved some money in banks, cooperatives and other depository institutions was a good enough number.

"The mentality that sees use of the are saving money in financial institutions," he said, although noting that it was difficult to quantify the beneficial effect to the economy of funds kept in the banking system.

Guinigundo noted that most households which spent the remittances, those who saved some money got the second highest percentage share.

The BSP survey also showed that one of all households which received OFW remittances in the last 12 months, 22.8 percent bought new home appliances, 10.9 percent spent for education, 7.1 percent bought a home, 4.1 percent acquired a motor vehicle, 2.7 percent paid for medical expenses and 1.8 percent used some money to pay home rental.

Guinigundo explained that the survey covered only the utilization behavior of household-bene-

SEE ALSO OPN. E2

RP bags 'best borrower' award

By Michelle V. Rono

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, SADDLED with close to P4 trillion in debts both to international and foreign creditors, was cited by a prestigious foreign business magazine as this year's "Best Sovereign Borrower" in Asia."

Euromoney has picked the Philippines as the "best borrower" for the second year in a row.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz will receive the award for the Philippine government in July.

If size of borrowings would be the sole standard in picking the winner, it would not be surprising for the Philippine to grab the award being one of the highly indebted countries in Asia.

An official from the Department of Finance, which manages the country's fiscal performance, lobbied that being tagged as the "best borrower" might not be something to be proud of.

The award was given following the Philippines' $2.2-billion float of dollar- and euro-denominated bonds in January, making it the first in the region to tap the international market for the year, bearing in Asian counterparts in attracting the attention of investors.

Cruz explained that the award had to do more with the manner the Philippines relates with the international capital market for funding. He said it has been the policy of the

SP PAGE B2

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Senate bill eyes BOI abolition

Investment promotion agency to take its place

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE FISCAL INCENTIVES RATIONALIZATION bill being prepared by the Senate committee on ways and means is expected to include a provision that will abolish the Board of Investments (BOI), as the government works toward plugging huge revenue losses resulting from unnecessary tax and duty perks.

BOI provides tax and duty-free privileges to firms that belong to industries included in the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), which lists industries that the government supports through the granting of fiscal incentives.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the committee, is scheduled to meet with officials of the Department of Finance today to discuss the final version of the bill. The committee intends to put the rationalization bill up for deliberation once Congress, which is currently in recess, opens next month.

According to Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, initial talks with Recto pointed to the abolition of the BOI as the bill intends to create fiscal incentives only to exporters.

Limiting incentives only to exporters would mean the government need not come up with the annual IPP and that the BOI's services would no longer be needed, Beltran explained.

Recto's proposed bill intends to replace the BOI with the so-called Investment Promotion Agency (IPA), which will promote the Philippines as an investment site.

Beltran said the DOF was supportive of Recto's plan to limit incentives only to exporters and to remove income tax holidays.

"Income tax holiday is a form of incentive given to firms that are already profitable, so it is not a good incentive," Beltran said.

He said incentives that were likely to be retained for exporters would include duty-free importation of equipment and raw materials, accelerated depreciation and net operating loss carryover (NOLCO).

Under accelerated depreciation, firms are allowed to deduct from its income for a given year the entire cost of depreciation of its equipment, reducing in the process the income tax liabilities. NOLCO, on the other hand, allows firms to deduct the amount of losses from the previous year to the current year's income to minimize their income tax obligations.

Beltran said Recto's proposed bill might also amend the 5-percent gross income tax imposed on exporters to only 1 or 3 percent.

The bill being prepared by the Senate committee on ways and means took into consideration the results of a DOF-commissioned study showing that the BOI was suffering from an 80-percent redundancy rate in terms of granting fiscal incentives.

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Farm output growth seen at 5%

THE COUNTRY'S FARM OUTPUT was estimated to grow by 4.5 to 5 percent in the first semester on the back of a 7.5 percent growth in crop production, a senior official from the Department of Agriculture said.

The crops sub-sector accounts for 46 percent of the entire agriculture sector.

"Based on the advanced indicators, crop production may expand by 7 to 7.5 percent during the period. In particular, palay production is expected to post an 8.19 percent gain and corn production by 21. 5 percent," Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said, quoting a report from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS).

The BAS report indicated that the livestock sub-sector would likely register an expansion of 2.to 2.5 percent. Poultry production, on the other hand, was expected to decline by about a percent to January to June partly due to the lower output in the first quarter.

BAS records showed that, in the first quarter, palay production grew 7 percent at 3.6 million metric tons. In the second quarter, estimates pegged it at a 8-percent growth to 2.9 million MT. Production is expected to expand by a faster 16 percent in the third quarter to 3.1 million MT.

Christine Guglione

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40% of OFW families . . .

From page B1

Besides, as OFW themselves could invest or keep their cash bank accounts.

There are about eight million OFWs or 10 percent of the population.

Overall, the Philippines' savings rate accounted for 27.8 percent of gross domestic product in 2005, still lower than Singapore's nearly 50 percent, Thailand's and Malaysia's 35 percent and Indonesia's 30 percent.

On the other hand, the Philippines' investment rate was much lower than its savings rate at only 15.7 percent.

Guerrgando said OFW assisted households were mostly in the E and C income classes, low income which would be immediately expected to turn into entrepreneurs or engage in micro-scale trading.

Based on another study earlier made by the World Bank, OFW households which were likely to start a business usually engage in transportation and communication services and manufacturing.

Those investing in transportation services usually venture into taxi and modern operations while jeepney manufacturing activities included small activities such as tent-making, tailoring, dressmaking and food processing.

More Filipinos deployed to Japan under TESDA-JITCO training program

By DANILO P. CRUZ

THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF 15 FOREIGN COUNTRIES which sent "blue-collar" workers to pursue further training in Japan in 2004-05.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) said the total number of Filipino trainees sent to Japan under the TESDA-Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (JITCO) skills technology transfer project (ITTP) during the 2-year period reached 11,761, of which 76 percent are males and 24 percent females.

China with 41,839 trainees as of December 2004 led the resulting list, followed by Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, India, Laos, Nepal, Peru, Uzbekistan, and others.

JITCO had supported 51,811 trainees from said 15 countries as of December 2005, with the Philippines occupying the fourth slot with 1,337 trainees, of which 75 percent or 1,009 are males and 25 percent or 468 females.

Deployment during the first five months of this year meanwhile reached 724, an increase of 393 persons or 84% compared against the yearlong total of only 1,122 in 1996, or 10 years ago. (please see graph #1).

The welding technicians group not only prevented the country from suffering a standstill in the number of trainees sent under ITTP in 2005 but also enabled a hefty increase over the 2004 figures.

This bit of drama in the ITTP is reported by TESDA-JITCO Deputy Project Director Apolonio P. Tabiw, as she recounted that their sending organization – the Foundation for Advancement of Skills Technology Inc. (FAST), Greenhills & Forest Foundation and Investhills Development Foundation – dominated the "lead list" during the year with a total deployment of 894 trainees (please see Graph # 2).

The Philippine trainees managed by the 42 TESDA-accredited sending organizations was enabled by Tabiw to their growing collaboration with Japan's accepting organizations and companies.

Collective deployment from 1999 to May this year reached 6,607 trainees, with Greenhills & Forest Foundation and FAST Inc. again being the top two senders with 2,807 followed by Investhills Development Foundation (995), Kippet Human Resources Foundation (807) and Aiwa Kaihatsu Kyokai (357).

The Japan International Training Cooperation Organization is an umbrella organization established in 1991 which provides comprehensive support and services to member companies and organizations, mainly from the private sector, in accepting trainees through the Industrial Training Program (ITP) and the Technical Internship Program (TIP) in Japan.

The purpose of ITP and TIP are: 1.) Industrial human resource development, 2.) Facilitate the transfer of skills through industrial training and internship, and 3.) Promote mutual ties between the industries of the sending countries.

There is consultation and exchange of information between JITCO and the country sending a trainee to Japan on a counter-part authority. Towards this end, JITCO and the sending country, say, the Philippines, as represented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority have to find an accredited sending organization.

From the sending organization, a sending company selects the trainee has acquired the necessary skill return certificates attesting to the qualification of the trainee was issued to the Department to an accepting organization in Japan.

On the host training ground, the trainee is continued by an accepting company where he graduates as a technical intern, thus completing a full three-year training course in his chosen field of specialization. As a trainee he or she is given only a living allowance and protection under the Immigration Control Laws and Regulations of Japan.

After completion of the program, a trainee or technical intern should return to his home country where he will be reinstated in his sending company and he able to utilize the skills he has acquired in Japan. This skill is expected to be used in promoting relevant industries in a participating country.

Surviving a global meltdown

Nokia, Siemens to merge phone network equipment units

₱2B set aside for Sta. Lucia project

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Pagcor hit for Subic casino closure

RP bags 'best borrower' award

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BUSINESS

National gov't debt hit ₱3.96T in March

US call center expansion creates 2,800 jobs

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PLAN OF A UNITED States-based company to expand its call center operations in the country may create as many as 2,800 new jobs for Filipinos living in Bicol.

Terence Reeves, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, yesterday said the Swedish-U.S. firm-based ABAC Customer Services Inc. is expected to open its third call center in Manila in the last quarter of the year.

Citing information gathered from ABAC's regulatory filing in the U.S., Reeves said that the Manila expansion comes as the company is current downsizing its US-based call center operations, transferring the bulk of it to Manila.

ABAC's new call center is expected to have 2,000 seats and employ about 2,800 people, he said.

Reeves in a statement said that the new office would be a boon to the country's fresh college graduates.

ABAC already has two call centers in Metro Manila, both located in Alabang.

Accordingly to a TUCP statement, Jared of ABAC's chairman and CEO is involved in health care, financial services, travel, entertainment and publishing industries.

It also said ABAC shares are publicly traded in the Nasdaq stock market in New York.

In 2005, the company earned $239.4 million.

Reeves estimated that ABAC would shell out around $35 million, or around P195 million, for the new facility.

He said another call center firm opens the same amount in putting up around 3,000 additional call center seats in the Philippines.

Call center operations providing services to offices from here have flourishing in the country, where English is widely spoken.

The Philippine government has been campaigning on behalf of the call center industry in its effort to generate more jobs to Filipinos, with President Macapagal-Arroyo giving orders to set up a call center school.

THERE are some call center jobs just waiting for fresh college graduates on the workforce.

Drop due to lower borrowing needs, stronger peso

By Michelle V. Rarua

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S outstanding debt stood at P3.962 trillion as of end-March, falling slightly from the previous month's level due to shrinking borrowing requirements and the peso's appreciation.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) showed that the latest debt figure was 0.04 percent lower than the P3.964 trillion recorded in end-February. It was also equivalent to 73 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), slightly better than the 72 percent recorded in the previous month.

This is in line with the government's aim to bring the debt down to 56 percent of GDP by 2008, when it achieves balanced budgets. National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a statement.

BTr figures showed that of the total debt, foreign obligations accounted for P1.771 trillion while domestic liabilities had the bigger share of P2.190 trillion.

Foreign borrowings are sourced through sovereign bonds floated and official development assistance (ODA) borrowings. Domestic obligations are sourced through the issuance of Treasury bills and bonds.

The decline in the debt figure was aided by the strengthening of the peso, which averaged at ₱.55.725 to $1 in February and at ₱.55.150 to $1 in March.

The P1.772 trillion foreign debt as of March represented a 1.4 percent drop from that ₱1.796 trillion the previous month.

However, the P2.19 trillion domestic obligations marked a 1 percent rise from the ₱2.168 trillion in February.

The government has set a maximum net budget of enhancing debt-to-GDP ratio to only 56 percent by 2008 to help improve the country's credit standing. Currently, the Philippines' credit ratings are below investment grade, which credit rating agencies blame on the country's huge debt level.

Most authorities said the Philippines would be able to hit the target, given its declining budget deficit that allows the government to reduce its borrowings. The deficit stood at ₱146.6 billion in the first two months and is expected to drop to only ₱125.9 billion this year. The budget gap is expected to go down to ₱82 billion next year and to zero by 2008.

Biscuit maker expanding

BISCUIT CORP. (Bibisco) has expanded its biscuit-making facilities in Cagayan de Oro, Bibisco director Gutierrez Jr. said.

He said that aside from biscuits, its new plant may produce cakes under the Bizcocho brand, Yuletide Foods Inc., the maker of Bizcocho packaged cakes, is an affiliate of Bibisco. Its other affiliates are Shalfresh Food Corp., maker of wafers and cream pastries; Bizcocho Foods Inc. (producer of chips and curls).

Its products under the Bibisco brand include Bibisco Sandwiches, Biscuit, Graham, Bravo, Apple Dapple, Sing Hokey, Big Time Cracker, Astro Bites and Super Thins. Its newly line covers Bizcocho Foods Inc. (producer of chips and curls).

Bibisco is expanding its brands with its recent acquisition of Biscuit Products Inc., Philippines, the manufacturer of the "Biscuit" candy brand under a 5-year license from August Storck KG of Germany.

In 1989, Bibisco forayed into the sans rival wafer market through JBC Food Corp., manufacturer of the Sing-Along, Capitan Sid and Dagupe Ice biscuit. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GSIS takes bank directors to court

By Michelle V. Rarua

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE Insurance System (GSIS) has filed criminal charges against officials of Equitable-PCI Bank over Roberto Ramolo's previous election as independent director of the bank board.

The Ramolo-Fortunato-Urquiza Law filed criminal charges against officials of Equitable-PCI Bank over Roberto Ramolo's previous election as independent director of the bank board.

The Ramolo-Fortunato-Urquiza Law filed criminal charges against officials of Equitable-PCI Bank over Roberto Ramolo's previous election as independent director of the bank board.

Chief Counsel Jesus Garcia Jr. said he would not be elected as independent director given his close affiliate companies of the bank. Ramolo served as independent director of EPCIB from 2002 to 2004.

The criminal case filed against Ramolo, Antonio Go, Anthony Cuenco, Peter Ho Peñas, and Nilo Devera.

The complaint was personally filed by Garcia before the Department of Justice on Thursday. Preliminary hearing of the case has been set on June 22.

"As an independent director, Mr. Ramolo is mandated by law to exercise his own independent judgment free from the influence of other members of the board and other related interests," Garcia said.

Garcia alleged that Ramolo's stint as director of EPCIB only to serve the interest of the Gotianuy. The former majority owner of the bank.

Whenever the bank board would decide on an issue, Garcia said, Ramolo would always side with the common denominator of the Go family, especially in matters that concerned the family's continued influence on the bank.

The criminal case filed with the DOJ followed the filing of an administrative complaint with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Last week, Ramolo's legal counsel issued a statement accusing the GSIS president of bias and meddling.

Atty. Reynaldo Geronimo of the Ramolo-Fortunato-Urquiza law firm issued the statement upon receipt of Garcia's complaint-affidavit filed with the DOJ last Friday.

Geronimo pointed out that Garcia himself admitted in his affidavit that he had filed a similar complaint with the SEC.

But the SEC, in a decision handed down last May, dismissed Garcia's complaint and declared that "no criminal omission should be imputed" on the EPCIB officials whom Garcia had accused.

Upon receipt of that decision, Garcia allegedly filed his complaint with the justice department.

"This is an unconditional admission of ignorance of the law," said Geronimo. "Garcia should have consulted his legal advisers on what his remedies were when he lost the case at the SEC. Filing the same complaint before another agency without even the merest scrutiny for laws and issues, is an audacity."

Geronimo pointed out that Garcia's relentless campaign against Ramolo and the others in his already extended the bounds of reason.

Peso dragged down by tension in Korea

By Dave C. Dumlao

AFTER A BRIEF RESPITE LAST week, the peso yesterday resumed its fresh downtrend, in the wake of tensions in the military situation in North Korea.

The peso, which has given up the gains it once earlier this year, yesterday shed 17.5 centavos to close at 55.29 from Friday's 55.115 dealing against the US dollar at the Philippine Dealing System.

"The peso followed the weakening of regional currencies," a currency dealer said. "There's no other reason."

Currency traders said the bearish sentiment in the region—led by the weakening Japanese yen and Korean won—cut short the peso's recovery last week.

The regional currency markets were upended by reports that North Korea had loaded a long-range ballistic missile, spanning Asia's mainland and Japan.

Tokyo warned Pyongyang of a harsh response from Japan and the United States if the missile were to be fired.

Traders also said that the market is bracing for renewed political trouble next week when efforts to revive the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo gain ground.

The one-year moratorium against the filing of new impeachment proceedings will end next week.

Adding to the regional woes was the fact that the Chinese yuan suspended the market by weakening, after its central bank announced an increase in the banks' reserve requirement over the weekend.

Given these regional uncertainties, dealers said the peso would likely hover between 55 and 55.50 in the near term.

Collection goals stay, says BIR

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE has not reduced its year-end revenue collection targets and is awaiting solidly behind Finance Secretary Margarito Teves' bid to stimulate government's fiscal targets.

This was the assurance given by Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Bolong to Senator Juan Ponce Enrile during the Senate hearing on the proposed Margin and Merrill Lynch annual report that a modification of the country's investment ratings may be in the offing.

Bolong said the investment banks that the prospective revenue collection levels for the current year "have not been revised yet, we are working any reduction" adding that the bureau has also requested revision of collection figures to "perform only to an economic or to which agency should secure the collection burden for current performance of the collection target".

"But as far as the BIR is concerned, we are making sure that whatever burden that have been previously set for 2006," he underscored.

Bolong also assured the investment banks that the BIR's collection performance "has registered consistent improvement compared to year-ago levels, and we are confident that revenue collection levels for the prospective collection level".

He cited the 26.16-percent improvement in the January to April collection performance of BIR regional offices in 2006 over the same period in 2005. The BIR Large Taxpayers Service surpassed its 2006 performance with a 25.04 percent improvement during the first four months of the year.

That's my boil

BREAKTIME

Conrado E. Banal III

THE GOCC-OWNED PHIC HAS DECIDED that it should just lose some P3 billion worth of real estate—and much, much more!

Making such a stupendous decision, mind you, was the entire board of the Philippine Retirement Construction Corp., which is only a strategic business in the Philippine Retirement Authority, the country's two most important toll ways, namely, the North Luzon and the South Luzon expressways.

Misbehaving, by the way, appointed the board members, all of them! The chair and CEO of PHIC, to name other than business tycoon Roy Arthur Agustin.

According to word going around the real estate sector, the PHIC board recently approved a resolution which, in effect, just away some 20 high-value properties.

They would form part of an "out-of court" settlement in a case involving an utterly called Rudolph Swantibe Limited.

Rudolph who? Well, not many in business actually know who the people are behind the company. It seems to have been established all of a sudden just like a boil.

From what I gathered, Rudolph is a corporation registered abroad, most probably in the Bahamas or some tropical place like it.

And it has been claiming that PHIC owed it something like P10 billion—the big ones over such a fantastic claim all the way to the Supreme Court.

Now, under previous administrations, PHIC has been fighting Rudolph tooth and nail.

For PHIC to surrender to Rudolph's P10-billion debt claim, it would mean a complete wipe out of PHIC is assets.

But suddenly the PHIC became friendly to Rudolph under this one administration of Gloria arroyo.

As I said, the board already agreed to pay off Rudolph with those valuable properties.

That only first, part of the supposed "out-of-court" settlement will be about P13 billion in cash.

And there is more. Rudolph is going to get P1 billion from the share of the PHIC to the daily toll collection of the North Luzon and South Luzon expressways.

But just how PHIC got to owe Rudolph such an amazing amount, is something for the books.

It seems that, several years ago, the mysterious Rudolph bought a debt portfolio of the Philippine government.

What has it that the debt paper was actually a $35-million supplier's credit given by the Japanese group to the old DBCB.

When CDCP collapsed, the Japanese group sold the debt paper to a huge distributor, and the paper apparently fell in the hands of the unidentified group behind Rudolph.

From what I gathered, some influential figures in this once administration are helping Rudolph. A couple of them are well known to the business community as former public officials.

In the offing is another attempt to torpedo Chavarria, and one of the charges is her involvement in a couple of huge deals such as the questionable sale of the 900 buildings to Equitable PCI Bank to the SM group of mall operator Henry Sy.

EPCIB first became famous in the "second monday" scam in the impeachment of the late ousted Pres. ... Erap.

That was before the SM group plans became public, with Henry Sy's best appointee, Tomas Yu, serving as vice chair of EPCIB Sy's son, of course with the help of two "godfathers" close to Malacañang.

For one, why did Malacañang allow DBS to sell its holdings to EPCIB to the SM group at a giveaway price of P47 per share, payable after seven years, with interest at a single-minimum of deposit rate?

I mean, just how suspicious can that? And to the public mind, as we all know, suspicion is enough to put a lender down. Look what happened to Mike Rural.

Joelle Marie Belaza, the former beauty pageant contestant, actually borrowed P5 million from DCPB and never paid a centavo of the loan.

That was the gist of an internal audit report made by Dr. Isaac, after Belaza went to media with claims that her name was used by the bank in a "money laundering" scheme, featuring Mike Rural himself.

The bank found out that Belaza borrowed P5 million from the bank in February 2000 and religiously paid the loan's interest for only six months, or the first month's loan period. His payment was ever made on the loan, except the interest for the first five months.

Now, Belaza's mother Elizabeth tried to cover for the beauty contestant by issuing post dated checks in payment for the loans.

All the checks bounced. And so DCPB attached two condo units that were under the name of Belaza's mother Elizabeth.

Only last year, the court held an auction for the condo units, to which DCPB naturally came.

But the bank still could not sell the condo units to recover its loan to Belaza, because Elizabeth executed a deed, giving a LIFETIME usufruct over the units to her parents, Bernan Hontoso and Pat Hontoso.

Thus, DCPB was forced to call the loans of Belaza to the government unit PDIC. Actually, it is PDIC that has a claim over those units today.

* * *

What is this I hear that our favorite newscaster guy just flew out of town, once more, on a sojourn in Hong Kong, together with a sweet young thing, who could be the second or the third runner-up? My, she got to really living it up!

HOW exercise can improve your golfing /C4

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Bunal-Formoso

CANON
WORRY-FREE
PRINTER MAINTENANCE

Snapshots of your life can save other lives

By Linda B. Bolido

HAVE A KODAK MOMENT and help save a life.

Kodak Philippines has partnered with East Avenue Medical Center-based Philippine Foundation for Breast Care, Inc., (PFBCI) in a campaign to promote awareness of breast cancer.

The campaign has put together the Kodak Life Gallery, a collection of day-to-day life portraits of some breast-cancer survivors.

It also announced it is now placing donation cans in all 600 Kodak Express Stores and other affiliate nationwide. Customers who exit these stores to have their films processed, photos potentially lost may offer loft alone can-ding loose change into the cans.

Money collected will be used by PFBCI to help defray the cost of diagnosis and management of breast cancer among indigent women.

The cans will feature the portraits of the breast-cancer survivors.

In promoting greater awareness of the deadly disease, Kodak aimed "to give women a better quality of life" and encourage them to seek expert medical attention as early as possible.

Statistics show a 95-percent survival rate if breast cancer is detected at its earliest stage.

World leader

Kodak's special interest in cancer stems from the fact that its healthcare and imaging arm has gained the reputation as the world's leader in health imaging. Among others, it is the main supplier of films for mammography use in hospitals.

Regular mammography, particularly after age 30, has been identified as a major tool in the campaign to arrest breast cancer as its earliest stages.

Kodak also decided to focus on breast cancer because some 70 percent of its customers are women. Though breast cancer can also afflict men, women are the most vulnerable to the disease.

At present, the Philippines reports the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia. Moreover, most cases in the Philippines are reportedly already in the advanced stages when discovered, resulting in a low survival rate.

KODAK country manager Raymund Alkuin makes the first can donation to Dr. Cristina Sandoz, president and co-founder of the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc.

During the launch of the campaign, Dr. Cristina Sandoz, co-founder and president of the non-stock, non-profit foundation and co-founder and consultant in charge of East Avenue's Breast Care Center, talked about the current breast cancer situation in the Philippines.

She briefly outlined factors that increased the risk of contracting the disease, as well as the guidelines for early detection of breast cancer.

She said women seeking the assistance of PFBCI would be assessed by a social worker to see if they met the criteria set by the foundation to qualify for help at no indigent.

E-mail the author at lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

Steps for breast self-examination

1. Arrived at the mirror. Face the mirror with your arms at your sides and look at your breasts for lumps, dimples or other changes in appearance. Repeat the procedure below. Next, with your arms raised over your head and your hands on your hips, inclining chest muscles forward. Finally, gently squeeze each nipple and check for discharge.

2. While showering. Put one hand behind your head. Using your other hand, press it firmly against your breast with your fingertips together. In this manner, feel your entire breast and underarm area for lumps. Then raise your other arm and examine your other breast.

3. While lying down. Lie on your back in a comfortable position. Place a pillow under your left shoulder. Examine your left breast with your right hand using the same procedure you used in the shower. Move the pillow under your right shoulder and examine your right breast.

Remember, your breast self-examination is not complete until you have done all five parts of the examination. Among others, it is the main supplier of films for mammography use in hospitals.

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Laugh, don't cry

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE between temperament and temperature?

It's much like a hot-and-cold switch...the children is temperamental while the pizza remains hot.

If that didn't make you laugh or at least bring a smile to your face, then maybe it's time you lighten up for your health's sake.

National Artist Nestor Vinarao often shared this episode in his life as a struggling artist in Paris. It is a true story, and a charming one at that.

Trying to save his hunger pangs, he rushed to a café to savor his last piece of confidence.

Unable to speak French, he communicated via his sketches. Every day, he would either draw a fish or a chicken on a piece of paper. This went on for months until the restaurant manager told him one day he no longer had to pay for his meals...as they would be on the house. When he asked why, he was told his drawings birthed a daily good price in the market.

One wonders why there is a proliferation of dateless, limp jokes and silver tree messages that parody life situations and human relationships. Is it simply because people just weren't born with a good laugh?

Laughter therapy

Dr. Lee Berk and fellow researcher Dr. Stanley Tan of Loma Linda University, California, published studies (Human and Health journal, September/October 1995) on the effects of laughter on the immune system. Among the benefits of laughter they found were:

- Immune men—a workforce where stressful laughter produces healthy or positive emotions that influence the immune system, boosting natural killer cells and increasing their number and strength to attack viral infected cells and certain types of cancer and tumor cells.
- Activation of T cells (T lymphocytes). Laughter tells the immune system to activate the T cells or wake them up.
- Strengthening of the fight against upper respiratory tract infection through an increase in the antibody IgA (immunoglobulin A). An antibody fights disease causing "invaders."
- Increase in gamma interferon that tells the immune system to turn itself on.
- Increase in IgE, another antibody immunoglobulin, as well as an increase in Gamma (Bernier 1), which assists antibodies in penetrating infected cells. The beneficial effects lasted, and levels of antibodies increased, right on the day when patients watched a funny/humorous video.

Stress buster

Studies also registered a general decrease in stress hormones. When stress attacks the body, blood vessels constrict and immune activity is suppressed, but when people are exposed to laughter, these conditions reverse.

To illustrate levels of epinephrine, the hormone that prepares the body for "fight, flight or fight" responses were low rates with just the anticipation of humor.

Good workout

Laughter exercises the diaphragm and improves the body's ability to use oxygen. Belly laughter, that hearty, loud expression of humor, is considered one of the best workouts.

Considered much like a pain killer, laughter can reduce pain and help speed up healing. Humor therapy is fast becoming an ally/answer to conventional health care and is being looked at closely in pain management.

Paul McGhee, in humor and health magazine, said about laughter:

Muscle relaxant, tones sedates, immune system enhancer, pain reliever, cardiac exerciser, blood pressure regulator, lung cleaner.

Now that you know the benefits of laughter, why would you want to cry?

Beauty regimen

Pour yourself in the mirror. Think of the humorous incident in your life. Follow the memory flow with the feeling.

Affirmation

"Today, I will laugh!"
Love and light!

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!
Take Charge Doc!
What is prostate cancer?
FOR THIS CHILD, THE SCARS WOULD MEAN A LOT. AS HE GROWS OLDER, IT WOULD MEAN HIS WORLD...
A NOTICEABLE SCAR ON THE FACE CAN OFTEN LEAD TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. Scarred people find it hard to accept the fact that they suddenly look different. Their self-confidence is affected. They hide the scar as best as they can. It is even possible for scarred people to become withdrawn and to deliberately avoid contact with others.
EASE THE EFFECTS OF SCARS WITH CONTRACTUBEX®.
The clinical efficacy of Contractubex® in treating fresh and stage-standing scars and keloids has been documented in numerous studies. The combination of Contractubex® therapy acid, allantoin and heparin are reduced and symptoms associated with scars, such as itching, feelings of tension and pain, are improved. Gently massage Contractubex® onto the scar tissue 2-4 times daily with complete penetration of the gel.
To know more about scars and Contractubex®, please send us an email at contractubex@organon.ph. You may also text us at 09175502098 or call (632) 9117168. Contractubex® is available in leading drugstores nationwide.
Extract cepae 10 g
Heparin sodium 5,000 IU
Allantoin 1 g
Contractubex Gel
Specific treatment for scars
scars
In other cases, use Contractubex.

PAL Mabuhay Miles exit entrance Rio Javier, Ria Domingo, Barbara Aragon, Peggy Calderol, Krissy Enriquez and Nina Tolosa

PHILIPPINE Airlines honchos and champs: PAL AVP for products Barbara Aragon, PAL president and COO Jaime Bautista, badminton pro Kennie Asuncion, golfer CJ Suarez and PAL EVP for commercial group Manny De Us

PALC's Tina de Vera, Debbie Cayabyab and Eileen Galindez

ADMIFLEX's Clang Garcia

EVENT host Anthony Suntay

New miles program brings

THE UNVEILING OF THE MAGNAT-ing new world of Mabuhay Miles' SportsPlus program was witnessed by a roomful of top national athletes at the National Sports Coliseum Makati.

Philippine Airlines top executives headed by brilliant president and COO Jaime Bautista, no less, got a first glimpse of the sporty, new SportsPlus look, paintings. The eye-catching new card has a dynamic letter design, symbolic of an active and adventurous lifestyle.

Philippine Airlines spokes AVP-Products Ms. Barbara Aragon-Alcid announced, "We now have 50-plus more reasons to rave about the exclusive Mabuhay Miles program. SportsPlus has augmented its catalogue, including over 30 partner establishments from specialty sport stores, bowling lanes, dive sites and golf courses. Members can now enjoy amazing discounts and privileges from any of the participating program partners."

The announcement was greeted with loud applause by the approving hostess, dubbings.

The highlight of this fun launch was a tribute to selected national sports heroes. Honored were ASAP bowling World Cup Champion and Athlete of the Year CJ Suarez, 2005 SEA Games gold medalist in golf Arnie Wagenson, Australian International Champs, multiple gold medalist in badminton Kennie Asuncion, and Bronzeric Asuncion, member of the Philippine Badminton Team that participated in the 13th World champ onships in Birmingham, England.

Each athlete was inducted into Sports Plus' elite circle of members.

To check this out, pass and grab SportsPlus is a Mabuhay Miles program "that allows its members to earn an additional 20 miles of equipment on a Philippine Airlines and the Philippines flight for the following sports: cycling, bowling, golf, scuba diving, sportfishing, tennis and badminton," it was explained to me by Mabuhay Miles' cyber smart, eye-catching Ria Domingo, paintings.

For more info on SportsPlus, check out www.mabuhaymiles.com.

Brushfires

The stairs once himself, Boiseng Velez, was left practically breathless after blowing the candles successively on six birthday cakes presented to him by pals dessert on his brain. Each cake represented a decade in his 60 years as an exemplary gentleman, outstanding sport visionary and

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnache

Photos by Alex Idea Hagues using Kodak EasyShare

PALC's Karina de Leon, Mary Ann Tordoi and Nina Dizon

ADMIFLEX president and COO AJ Pangilinan and Felix Cruz

PALC's Pascual Arbis Santos and Blanca Alcalar

DUNLOP Seicoogoo's licensing director for the Far East, Stanley Tse, presents a limited-edition golf bag to PAL president Jaime Bautista

the power of protection

Age 1 is **the Discovery Stage.** Your child starts to walk and explore the world around him. He needs protection now, more than ever, for him to discover the world and go further.

...ll royals. Hans and Chen Sy; celebrator Bobong Veloz, Nicky and Borg Chu

smiles to sportsmen

...party par... ...ment and ...birthday ...shed by an... ...ma. ...ebrator-... ...ound high ...DC. Seat... ...er hostess ...mpanied ...cake for ...ming an... ...ounded ...ers and ...ormented ...d, finally, ...ough as ...the dark ...

...r Martell ...followed ...rebrate to ...y ...d prosec... ...ared by ...from the ...musicians ...ment set ...dres and ...ation of a ...

gorgeous Breitling Aerospace watch donated by Jesse Tan, no less, of Luxente. With a cruiser value of more than P125,000, the watch went to gorgeous Glee Singson, who had the winning bid of P133,000.

Proceeds of the auction went to the Lead Institute of Sports, a pet advocacy of Bobong, to which the other guests also donated, "in lieu of gifts."

Hey it was a grand birthday celebration, a fun-filled-to-the-brim shebang worthy of an extravaganza and quintessential end party guy.

Cheers, palangga!

Malang celebrates

Those fashionable, civic-minded and charity-oriented Iloilos—Hans Santos Lessner, Dr. Rodriguez and Letty Bascon—invited their close pals on behalf of their beloved uncle, the renowned artist Mauro Malang Santos, no less, palanggas... as the noble of the Ilong are, the posh Manila Polo Club. The occasion was Malang's 78th birthday.

During lunch, the chitchat was pointless, surely! The lunch dog was the superb Italian food excellently prepared by Ian Sumner's Mahal Cookyluv.

...ands the cake the desserts, it was time to blow out the candle on the cake marking another chapter in the honoree's 78thand yours, palanggas.

(seated) LETTY Bascon, celebrator Mauro Malang Santos, Hans Lessner and Fe Rodriguez. Bang Santos, Cris Rodriguez, Tina Bascon, Olga Santos, Chit Salud, Ribel Trinidad, Thelma Gozo and Rita Bascon

DIGNA Jiroz and Timmy Hugnoncono

BROTHER-AND-SISTER act: Cris Lopez Nieto and Mamo Nieto

DOMINI Pereira and Joanne Quiroz-Primero

TOP admiror Anna Perlyn

FR. JOEY Tesoro, Mike Toledo, Quinito Henson, Fr. Armand Tangi, Jun Bernardino and Dennis Ramirez (seated)

SOUTHERN pub Bibing Villanueva, Girl Villareal and Marissa Nieto

CHIQUI Roa-Puno, Lou Veloso, PBA commissioner Noli Eala, Irene Eala and Chot Reyes

BOOMS Dingcong, Robert Young and Manolet Lagdameo

BAYBERNA de Ocampo, Lorraine Schuck, Ramon Monzon and Peachy Veneracion

MANJO Velasco and Shoppertv's Donnie Tanseco

MP Charlie Cojuangco and Denise Lucas

Introducing new NIDO 1+
with Lactobacillus PROTECTUS™
the latest innovation in milk nutrition

The 3-Point Revolution

1 The Only Milk With Live Lactobacillus PROTECTUS™

NIDO 1+ is the first to introduce Lactobacillus PROTECTUS™ in a milk powder. It is a live microorganism that helps build your child's body defenses.

2 How It Works

Once NIDO 1+ is mixed with water, the Lactobacillus PROTECTUS™ multiplies by the millions and when consumed start to boost your child's immune system.

3 Active Protection And More!

NIDO 1+ also has Prebio1 – a unique blend of natural fiber – and essential vitamins and minerals that further strengthen his immune system. Plus DHA for visual and mental development.

Continuous Drinking = Continuous Protection

The Nestlé Research Center

This milk innovation was scientifically developed by the Nestlé Research Center in Switzerland, a pioneer in nutrition research. The Nestlé Research Center's scientists, doctors and nutritionists work constantly to improve nutritional standards the world over.

The NIDO Nutrition System

Protecting the world's No.1 child

Brush, brush your teeth

DR. SALINDA Marvel: "Brush your teeth for at least two minutes. This gives enough time for the fluoride to diffuse and work its way into your teeth the way it should."

By Anne R. Jardaneta

DID YOU KNOW THAT SOME Filipino families share toothbrushes? That some school-aged children brush their teeth with their mothers' old toothbrushes? And that some middle-aged adults have never been to a dentist?

Dr. Angelita B. Gallaso, chair of the Department of Community Dentistry at the University of the Philippines Manila College of Dentistry, compiled these alarming facts on the Filipinos' understanding of dental hygiene and their oral care practices in a study that was presented by budding toothbrush brand Oral-B at the recent Philippine Dental Association's convention.

Dr. Salinda Marvel, dentist and professor at UP, said oral hygiene was one of the most commonly neglected health concerns among Filipino families.

These findings are based on community studies on structured analysis of adopted barangays and urban localities, which have been conducted by UP Manila since 2000. There are about 53,616 respondents per barangay.

Included among the mistaken oral health beliefs of Filipinos are: toothbrushes do not need to be replaced; milk teeth need no brushing since these will be replaced by permanent teeth; permanent teeth need no extra care since dentures will replace them anyway; it's natural to wear dentures in old age; dentures do not require any cleaning by adult and tooth-brushing cannot be done without toothpaste.

Also cited as the conference was a 2002 survey which revealed that the average patient at the UP Manila College of Dentistry about had at least 13 decayed, filled or missing teeth by school. Gallaso was below the World Health Organization standard of just two for acceptable oral health hygiene. An even more distressing figure is that 54 percent just leave their teeth to decay.

These findings hardly mean it's useless, of course. Fortunately, Gallaso also said various dental health programs and oral care awareness projects have since been launched by UP Manila.

To help promote the importance of good oral hygiene for overall health, Oral-B Phils. launched last year its "Adambrush" program and started it across the country, complete with free dental checkups by partner dental experts, and free toothbrushes to promote brushing.

Marvel pointed out ethos that must range to clean their teeth, and how their teeth are replaced by dentures or implants, despite relying solely on this practice. While not merely discussing the role of toothpaste, as they do contain chemicals that aid in oral health care, she said it was ultimately the toothbrush that cleaned the teeth.

"The toothbrush is the mechanical tool we use to clean our teeth. It is important to choose it wisely. A primary consideration should be the bristles," Marvel said. Bristles must be soft so as not to damage the gums, as scheduled by designed to effectively reach clean the teeth, she added.

A 2000 Decision Equity study by AC Nielsen shows that 89 percent of the dentists use and recommend Oral-B toothbrush. That is up from the 2003 usage rate at 81 percent. Bristles are the primary consideration for the choice used in cleaning efficiency, comfort and safety.

"We take great pride in introducing clinically superior oral care products that improve the oral health of Filipinos," said Ming Sorayo, senior product manager of Oral-B.

Dad-It Bagay, for instance, is specifically tailored to the different stages of a child's development, from a mouth old all the way to 3 years old and above. Adults have a wide range of choices as well, from brushes that massage the gums to those that lift and sweep away plaque.

"Don't forget to floss," Marvel added.

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EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Staggered reaching squat

STRENGTHENS the legs, buttocks and core muscles

Equipment:
None

Exercise technique:
1. Stand in a staggered stance with one leg in front of the other.
2. Squat by raising your buttocks backward and arms forward as if reaching into a low shelf.
3. Straighten up to starting position.
Performance tips:
1. Keep spine neutral...neither arching nor rounding.
2. Avoid bringing knees past your toes.
Repetitions:
Two to 15 repetitions.

Are you fit enough to tee off?

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Arceo

'A golfer should regard his body as the 15th club in his golf bag'

GOLFERS SPEND A LOT OF money on equipment and private lessons just to improve their score. However, according to Gregory Florez of Fun Fitness, golfers tend to neglect their most important asset—their bodies. Golf fitness expert Neil Chanas says a golfer should regard his body as the 15th club in the golf bag.

While golf is not a physically demanding sport like soccer or basketball, it still places tremendous strain on the elbows, shoulders, spine and knees.

Being fit will not guarantee a 100-percent improvement in your handicap or completely protect you from injuries, but it will help you play better golf and reduce your risk of injury.

Endurance

According to Wayne Westcott, research fitness director of the YMCA, "Golf is far from a baffling and puffing activity as cardiovascular conditioning has little practical application for improving golf performance."

However, he points out that aerobic exercise can be "beneficial with respect to heart health and may help reduce fatigue during the last hour of play." Imagining during the last couple of holes of the last day of an important tournament may make all the difference between winning and losing.

Flexible strength

Hanscom says that in 1995, only two professional players were lifting weights. By 2000, almost every professional was jumping on it. The impetus for this change to embrace was Tiger Woods who, according to Strength54.com, put on 20 pounds of muscle in one year of weight-lifting and used those added pounds to make prodigious drives.

Cardio for the aerobic shift caused strength-training should also go to Johnson's landmark study conducted with amateur and professional golfers. The right-arch study used turn prone-only strength-training alone (SNA) and with strength-training plus flexibility (STF).

The research team discovered that the STF group improved clubhead speed by three miles per hour without adversely affecting flexibility. It also produced a six-percent improvement in resting blood pressure.

The STF group achieved an increase in clubhead speed of five miles per hour. They also increased hip and shoulder flexibility by 24 percent.

The golfers involved reported "longer drives, lower scores, less injuries and no injuries during the following golf season."

Golf research

The Greenmeia Hospital Internet has an laboratory devoted to research the golf swing in 1983 after noticing that they were treating a large number of golf-related injuries. The lab has since published many papers on the subject. Here is what their research has found:

Contrary to the popular opinion that it is the left side of the body that is mainly responsible for the power in the golf swing, the muscular output of the left and right side of the body is equal. Therefore, training exercises should use kind strength, flexibility or golf skills should be balanced.

The move toward the ball occurs first at the hips and is followed by the arms. Power is generated by the legs as they push off the ground and rotate the hips around the hip joints.

In order to get the clubhead to high speed within a shorter arc, the best flexible players has to "muscle" the club or use more of his arm muscles to get the ball to fly a longer distance. This leads to early fatigue, poor golf skills and increased chance of injury.

The muscular junctures that attach to the shoulder (rotator) and rotator cuff (four small muscles that surround the shoulder joint like a cuff) are crucial in the swing but they are weak in most people. They are among the most easily injured muscles in golfers.

The muscular junctures used by men and women are the same. There is no need for different exercise programs for male and female golfers.

Ideal golf fitness program

The ideal program would include aerobic exercise, strength training, flexibility exercises, and core exercises that improve coaction, balance and coordination.

Twenty minutes of aerobic exercise is enough to improve stamina and overall health (since weight loss is also desired 120-60 minutes would be more appropriate).

The focus of the strength training exercises is to get stronger muscles without making them significantly bigger. Flexibility training should include "dynamic." Flexibility exercises that are done while moving.

Yoga, Pilates and stability ball training are excellent core conditioning programs to achieve flexible strength and coaction.

Visit www.simplymyfitness.info

What is seen may not be reality

THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF looking at things.

One way is to look at things purely from our external senses, i.e. what we can see, hear, smell, touch and taste. This is the way of women as the data physical sciences.

Another way is to see things from our mind's eye, or from our inner sight or from a soul level. This is the way of the mystic, the psychic and the clairvoyant.

Reality therefore can be looked at from an "ordinary" standpoint and from a "clairvoyant" standpoint, terms used by neuroscientist Dr. Lawrence Le Shan in his books, "A Separate Reality" and the "The Medium, The Mystic and the Physicist."

Looking at things from a purely sensory and external point of view has worked well for humankind. The scientific method has given us much progress and a certain degree of control over nature. But there's the nagging question that there are more to things than what we can see with our limited five senses.

Entering the world of clairvoyant reality is like slowly entering Wonderland. Everything is not what it seems to be. And who is to tell what is correct and what is not?

Only in part

Unfortunately, we cannot really be certain of things; our ego tells us. Because we cannot be certain, we rarely wholly. And to make final judgments or conclusions based on an adequate perception is bound to lead to error.

This realization or line of thinking reminds me of two quotations. One is from philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, who said, "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what is not so, and the other is to refuse to believe what is so."

The second quotation comes from the Chinese Taoist philosopher Chuang Tze or Chuangzhu. He said, "One night I dreamt I was a butterfly. As a butterfly I was happy flying from flower to flower. I was sure I was a butterfly. But when I woke up, I realized that I was not a butterfly but Chuang Tze, the philosopher, dreaming he was a butterfly. But now, I began to think, 'What if I were really a butterfly dreaming that I am Chuang Tze?'"

What is reality? Is there such a thing as objective reality? Buddhists say there's no such thing, that everything is really maya or illusion.

We can never really know the true nature of reality. The German philosopher Immanuel Kant said the same thing. "We can only know what is in our mind, the phenomenon, but never what is outside of it, the noumenon."

And Plato, much earlier in the history of philosophy, said something similar. "We can never have perfect knowledge of things outside our minds. We can only have imperfect pictures of them." Objective reality is unknowable, according to him. What we see are only shadows of reality, not reality itself.

And so forth and so on, ad nauseam.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime T. Licauco

No end

I have no intention of adding to the debate. There can never be any end to it. The only thing I want to point out here is there is another way of looking at things around us that will add greater meaning to our lives.

For example, understanding the hidden laws of nature enables us to see why things happen the way they do. Knowing about the closely related matter we realize that every thing we experience are recorded in time and space and can eventually be accessed by persons with clairvoyant vision.

Perhaps this is what Christ meant when he said "what is hidden will be revealed." There are no secrets in the universe. To one with clairvoyant vision, everything is crystal clear, even our thoughts and deepest secrets.

It is gratifying to note that more and more scientists are beginning to appreciate the subtle energies operating at levels in physical reality and the role that consciousness plays in our perception of that reality.

Quantum physicists, for example, have discovered that our thoughts really affect matter. This becomes very clear and demonstrable on the quantum level, that is on the subatomic levels of matter.

At that level, the classical laws of Newtonian physics no longer apply. What apply are the laws of consciousness or human thoughts. The Buddhists are right when they tell us this world is largely our own mental creation. What is out there is maya or illusion.

Note: I will be in Cagayan de Oro City July 22-23 to conduct my two-day seminar on Inner Mind Development. Call 08 857-7150/851-

Tips on eye care for contact lens wearers

THAT PAINFUL, BLURRY feeling when you wear your contact lenses may be caused by more than just dryness of the eyes. It could be a nasty fungal infection called Fusarium keratitis.

Fusarium is a fungus that thrives in tropical climates, while keratitis means inflammation of the cornea (that's the transparent layer covering your eyeball). Symptoms of Fusarium keratitis include redness, pain, tearing, increased light sensitivity, blurry vision, discharge and swelling. Left untreated, Fusarium keratitis can lead to permanent scarring and blindness, so go to your doctor immediately when you experience any of these symptoms.

Dr. David Manseau, Director of Professional Education for Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., manufacturer of ophthalmic surgical and eye care products, gives the following tips to protect your eyes from infection:

- Wash hands with lanolin-free soap and water, and dry (lint-free method) before handling lenses.
- Clean and replace lenses according to the schedule prescribed by the eye care practitioner.
- Follow the specific lens cleaning and storage guidelines from the eye care practitioner and the solution manufacturer.
- Keep the contact lens case clean and replace every 3-3 months.
- Remove the lenses and consult your eye care practitioner immediately if you experience symptoms such as redness, pain, tearing, increased light sensitivity, blurry vision, discharge or swelling.

The easiest choice of lens care solution is also critical for optimal eye health and a safe, comfortable contact lens wearing experience.

No nearly 15 years, 4000 has been providing contact lens users worldwide with Complete Multi-purpose Solutions, trusted for daily lens cleaning and disinfection. Exclusively distributed by New Trends International, Complete is available at leading optholmic drugs nationwide.